

1883-84

R.M.H.S. RESOURCE CENTER
READING, MASS.



TOWN OF READING.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES,

FOR THE

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 1ST, 1884.

BOSTON:

C. M. BARROWS & CO., PRINTERS.

1884.

TOWN OF READING.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES,

FOR THE

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 1ST, 1884.

BOSTON:
C. M. BARROWS & CO., PRINTERS.
1884.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

TOWN OFFICERS—1883—84.

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.

LEWIS M. BANCROFT, *Chairman.*

JAMES A. BANCROFT. CHARLES H. NOWELL.

Town Clerk.

WILLIAM J. WIGHTMAN.

Treasurer.

EDWARD F. PARKER.

Collector of Taxes.

R. DEXTER TEMPLE.

School Committee.

HORACE G. WADLIN, <i>Chairman.</i>	-	Term expires, 1884
HENRY G. KITTREDGE, <i>Secretary.</i>	-	“ “ 1885
GEORGE E. PUTNEY, - - -	-	“ “ 1884
STILLMAN E. PARKER, - - -	-	“ “ 1886
JAMES A. BANCROFT, - - -	-	“ “ 1885
EDWARD F. PARKER, - - -	-	“ “ 1886

Surveyor of Highways.

WILLIAM L. JONES.

Engineers of the Fire Department.

GEORGE H. PARKER, <i>Chief.</i>	WENDELL BANCROFT,
EDWARD C. NICHOLS,	WILLIAM L. CROWE.

Constables.

LEWIS W. ERSKINE.

EDWIN BASSETT.

Policemen.

LEWIS W. ERSKINE, <i>Chief.</i>	JEREMIAH C. COOK, <i>Clerk.</i>
EDWIN BASSETT,	WILLIAM L. JONES.
EDWARD B. EAMES,	WEBSTER EAMES.

Sealer of Weights and Measures.

R. DEXTER TEMPLE.

Trustees of Public Library.

STEPHEN FOSTER, <i>Chairman.</i>	-	-	Term expires, 1886
HORACE G. WADLIN, <i>Secretary.</i>	-	-	" " 1886
CHARLES D. THOMAS,	-	-	" " 1885
HARLEY PRENTISS.	-	-	" " 1885
CYRUS M. BARROWS.	-	-	" " 1884
JAMES H. GRIGGS,	-	-	" " 1884

Trustees of Cemetery.

JAMES A. BANCROFT,	-	-	Term expires, 1886
FRANK W. B. PRATT,	-	-	" " 1886
SOLON BANCROFT,	-	-	" " 1885
WILLIAM J. WIGHTMAN,	-	-	" " 1885
FRANCIS O. DEWEY,	-	-	" " 1884
GILMAN C. GLEASON,	-	-	" " 1884

Auditors.

GILMAN L. PARKER,
EDWARD APPLETON, FRANK W. B. PRATT.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

Births Registered in Reading in 1883.

DATE.	NAME OF CHILD.	SEX.	NAMES OF PARENTS.	OCCUPATION OF FATHER.
Jan.	3 Gilford,	M	Arthur J. and Lizzie,	Laborer.
"	10 John Devanney,	M	Patrick and Mary,	R. R. Employee.
"	24 William Henry Snow,	M	Henry and Emily,	Mechanic.
"	29 Hattie Lillian Horton,	F	Charles M. and Charlotte H	Machinist.
Feb.	3 Clarence Elmore Carter,	M	Adelbert H. and Clara L.,	Organ Pipe M'k'r.
"	4 Alma Nellie Damon,	F	Arthur A. and Cornelia,	Neck Tie Manuf'r.
"	4 Eva Ardell Emerson,	F	Albert F. and Mary A.,	Farmer.
March	11 Wadsworth,	M	Claudius and Abbie E.,	Farmer.
"	15 Leon Edward Lovejoy,	M	Edward and Ida M.,	Piano Forte M'k'r.
"	16 Ardenne Albert Stott,	M	J. Albert and Fannie,	Mechanic.
"	19 Edith Rudolph,	F	John and Sarah S.,	
"	21 Nellie Connelly,	F	John and Mary,	Laborer.
"	25 Louis Herbert Nichols,	M	Herbert E. and Clara E.,	Milk Dealer.
"	25 Burgess,	M	Robert and Mary D.,	Mason.
"	26 Alden Pinus Gilson,	M	F. Howard and Emily I,	Music Typog'ph'r.
"	28 Marshall,		John A., and Anna G.,	Watchman.
"	31 Doucette,		Francis K. and Fanny,	Stone Mason.
April	11 Frank Carroll Bickford,	M	Daniel T. and Hattie M.,	Clerk.
"	11 Maud Ethea Warren,	F	John P. and Clara J.,	Organ Pipe M'k'r.
"	12 Smith,		Frank M. and Louisa A.,	Salesman.
"	19 Louisa Safford Holden,	F	Henry E. and Ada L.,	Merchant.
"	22 John Cooksley,	M	Daniel and Eliza,	Artist.
May	1 Elizabeth Nancy Willis,	F	Octavus N. and Martha B.,	Carpenter.
"	3 Percy Wood,	M	Benjamin F. and Elvira F.,	Laborer.
"	6 Arthur F. Hoyt,	M	Lorenzo and Emma F.,	Shoemaker.
"	12 Inez Eliza Putnam,	F	Frank I. and Anna J.,	Clerk.
"	15 Bertha Eveline Taylor,	F	George F. and Virginia H.,	Printer.
"	16 Frank Hamlett Roberts,	M	Frank E. and Phebe H.,	Laborer.
"	15 Maud Helen Bryant,	F	William G. and Lama,	Trader.
"	19 McLeish,	M	Andrew and Mary,	Varnisher.
"	24 Bertha Allen Nichols,	F	Charles H. and Lucy M.,	Salesman.
June	26 Harry Bailey Potter,	M	Hanson B. and Lizzie E.,	Telegraph Repr.
"	28 Hattie Elta McIntire,	F	Charles H. and Helen R.,	Bracket Maker.
"	30 Ralph Stevens Keneely,	M	James and Abbie F.,	Cabinet Maker.
July	26 Winifred Irving Frost,	M	Edward C. and Nellie A.,	
"	28 Alice Jane Coney,	F	Charles S. and Annie M.,	Painter.
"	29 Percy Merritt Smith,	M	Edward A., Jr., & Minnie C.	Conductor.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN READING IN 1883.—(Continued.)

July	30	Lillian Caroline Nichols,	F	William B. and Lottie M.,	Milk Dealer.
Aug.	1	Emily Bessie Corrie,	F	Edward H. and Martha A.,	Organ Pipe M'kr.
"	8	Porter,	M	Ludger and Elizabeth.	Stone Mason.
"	17	Frank Edward Gleason,	M	Julius I. and Lucy I.,	Organ Trimmer.
"	19	Charles H. Lang, 3rd,	M	Charles H., Jr., and May E.	Salesman.
"	28	Percy Leon Jeffrey,	M	William B. and Mary P.,	Cabinet Maker.
"	30	Stimpson,	F	James N. and Nettie M.,	Baggage Master.
"	31	Daniels,	F	Frank and	Laborer.
Sept.	6	James Balmain Robertson,	M	James and Isabella H.,	Machinist.
"	14	Lulu May Austin,	F	Charles and Emma,	Cabinet Maker.
"	18	Ethan A. Sweat,	M	Mark and Lillie M.,	Engineer.
"	18	Arthur Sanborn,	M	and Annie.	
"	20	Mary Ann Parker,	F	Asa and Sarah A.,	Farmer.
"	25	Marion Ruth Parker,	F	Elmore and Emma,	Salesman.
"	26	Henry Martin Allen,	M	Charles H. and Hattie B.,	Salesman.
Oct.	3	George Edgar Davis,	M	George E. and Edith L.,	Salesman.
"	4	Harold Nowell,	M	Charles R. and Anna M.,	R. R. Paymaster.
"	14	Clara Josephine Pierce,	F	George W. and Clara A.,	Shoemaker.
"	27	Barbara Stebbins Parker,	F	Edward H. and Annie M.,	Milk Dealer.
Nov.	1	Ruggles.	M	William I. and Mina W.,	Freight Agent.
"	7	Joseph Stokes,	M	Joseph and Susan,	Laborer.
"	10	Katie May Forrest,	F	Charles and Margaret F.,	Stable Keeper.
"	13	Florence Evalyn Austin,	F	Henry K. and Maria J.,	Machinist.
"	17	Ralph Leslie Mears,	M	William H. and Mamie M.,	Salesman.
"	20	William Charles McRoberts	M	William and Rose E. M.,	Mechanic.
Dec.	2	George Melvin Harrow,	M	Stephen and Josephine L.,	Cabinet Maker.
"	15	James Robert Nichols,	M	Richard B. & Josephine A.,	Farmer.
"	16	Lulu George Scott,	F	Walter M. and Fannie M.,	Pyrotechnist.
"	28	Jennie Louise Dinsmoor,	F	Arthur W. and Annie D.,	Cabinet Maker.
"	29	Emma Jane Boyd,	F	John A. and Ida M.,	Farmer.

Whole number of Births registered in 1883, 67. Males, 36; Females, 31.

Nativity of Parents, American, Fathers, 57; Mothers, 52. Foreign, Fathers, 10; Mothers, 15.

Marriages Registered in the Town of Reading for the Year 1883.

DATE.	NAME OF GROOM AND BRIDE.	AGE	RESIDENCE.	OCCUPATION OF GROOM.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAMES OF PARENTS.	BY WHOM MARRIED.
Jan.	3 Jacob Ames, Vilora Smith,	59 49	Woburn, Reading,	Shoemaker, Mechanic,	Woburn, Freedom, Me., Tunro,	Jacob and Henrietta, Nehemiah and Eliza, Edward T. and Sarah H.,	Rev. James K. Ewer.
"	4 Edward H. Fendergrace, Jennie Heller,	28 23	Reading, Reading,	Painter,	Reading, Reading,	James and Rebecca, Everett E. and Sarah,	Rev. E. A. Manning, Wakefield.
"	8 Luther E. Nichols, Mary E. Temple,	25 23	Reading, Reading,	Shoe Cutter,	Reading, Deerfield,	William H. and Ruth N., Stilman E. & Emeline A.,	Rev. W. Silverthorne.
"	16 Edward H. Parker, Fannie M. Stebbins,	28 26	Deerfield, Wakefield,	Saloon Keeper,	Deerfield, Wakefield,	Benjamin Z. and Marion, George and Harriet F.,	Rev. A. Hazen, Deerfield.
Feb.	22 George F. Cox, Ora A. Fay,	34 23	Wakefield, Stoncham,	Furture Fin'sh'r	Oxford, Me., So. Berwick, Me.,	Benjamin F. & Sarah J. B., John and Mary,	Rev. Chas. J. Staples.
"	27 Charles E. Austin, Emma Thunston,	25 20	Reading, Reading,	Shoemaker,	New York City, Marblehead,	Richard and Lucy, John H. and Harriet,	Rev. P. M. Macdonald
March	1 Henry F. Broughton, Annie Noble,	21 21	Marblehead, Reading,	Teacher,	Reading, New Brunswick,	Stilman E. & Emeline A., Henry and Jane,	Rev. S. P. Smith, Marblehead.
April	3 Henry C. Parker, Henrietta Cogam,	24 26	Reading, Boston,	Carpenter,	Montello, Wis., Nova Scotia,	James and Isabella, Erastus and ———	Rev. A. E. Winship, Boston.
"	25 Joseph Graham, Mary J. Rivenham,	52 34	Randolph, Reading,	Cabinet Maker,	Boston,	—	Rev. John C. Labaree, Randolph.
May	2 Albert W. Doyle, Minnie Hanley,	21 26	Lynn Reading,	Engineer,	Lowell, Charlestown,	Zela and Julia, Daniel C. and Phebe A.,	Rev. E. R. Thorndike, Lynn.
"	7 Charles L. Channell, Sarah E. Parker,	24 24	Reading, Reading,	Milk Dealer.	Reading, Reading,	William S. & Harriet N., George O. and Esther R.,	Rev. Frank S. Adams.
"	16 Adelbert E. Batchelder, Mary A. Allen,	25 25	Reading, Reading,	Cabinet Maker,	No. Reading, Reading,	Samuel O. and Elizabeth, Timothy and Margaret,	Rev. Geo. E. Allen, No. Reading.
"	21 Daniel T. Cauty, Mary A. Measures,	33 32	Reading, Stoncham,	Shoe Cutter,	Reading, Springfield, N. H.,	Alfred B. and Mary J., David F. and Sarah C.,	Rev. D. J. O'Farrell, Stoncham.
June	2 Samuel D. Weston, Eosc T. Hazeltine,	36 24	Stoncham, Stoncham,	Mechanic,	Nova Scotia, New Brunswick,	Albert and Lucinda, Joseph and Ann	Rev. Chas. J. Staples.
"	30 George A. Fader, Annie Chesley,	26 26	Reading, Reading,	Merchant,	Claremont, N. H., Vimherst, N. S.,	John and Elizabeth, Thomas B. & Caroline A.,	Rev. P. M. Macdonald
July	19 Henry G. Kittredge, Helen Lifeheld,	39 31	Reading, Reading,	Baggage Master	Boston,	Robert and Catherine, Adrian and Mary,	Rev. F. N. Luson, Wakefield.
"	19 Bernard A. Mertens, Jennie Keenan,	23 21	Reading, Deadham,	Rubber Worker,	P. E. Island, Nova Scotia,	Thomas and Mary, Henry and Kate,	Rev. James K. Ewer.
"	24 Joseph N. White, Elizabeth Froton,	25 18	Reading, Lynn,	Morocco Dress'r	Nova Scotia, Boxford,	Sybil and Judick, Ebenezer and Susan J.,	Rev. J. H. Donnelly, Wakefield.
Aug.	5 Henry O. Farbox, Henrietta Melendy,	27 21	Reading, Reading,			Dudley and Elizabeth G.,	Rev. Frank S. Adams.

DATE.	NAME OF GROOM AND BRIDE.	AGE.	RESIDENCE.	OCCUPATION OF GROOM.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAME OF PARENTS.	BY WHOM MARRIED.
Aug.	6 Donald Ramsay, Lillian K. Whitefield,	35 25	Reading,	Lithographer,	Scotland,	Donald and Flora,	Rev. J. J. Laurie,
"	13 Frank B. Cummings, M. Elizabeth Barker,	29 21	Reading,	Cabinet Maker,	St. Paul, Minn.,	Edwin and Lillian,	Rev. P. M. Macdonald
"	15 Albert J. Francis, Jennie P. Corkins,	25 23	Reading,	Salesman,	Reading,	James M. and Joanna W.,	Rev. Chas. J. Staples,
"	31 George E. Lang, Amy F. Bucknam,	21 16	Reading,	Expressman,	Coleraine,	Antonio and Desire,	Rev. R. P. Bush,
Sept.	12 Harrison H. Parker, Harriet A. Clement,	35 27	Stoneham,	Org'n Pipe Mkr,	Reading,	Charles H. and Philinda,	Rev. Geo. E. Allen,
"	14 Sylvanus S. Bennett, Chrisie Nicol,	30 40	Reading,	Engineer,	Stoncham,	Otis and Susan A.,	Rev. North Reading,
"	16 Earl H. Gowing, Isabel P. Dinsmoor,	33 30	Plymouth,	Carpenter,	Andover,	Samuel and Harriet B.,	Rev. Robt A. McAyeol
"	18 Patrick Connally, Margaret Steed,	30 18	Reading,	Section Hand,	Plymouth,	Moses and Mary H.,	Rev. N. R. Wright,
"	20 Edward C. Packard, Abby Z. Wakefield,	35 30	Reading,	Farmer,	Woburn,	Adam and Lucy,	Rev. M. Flatley,
Oct.	3 William N. Whipple, Catherine Reardon,	22 26	Reading,	Provis'n Deal'r,	Reading,	Ames and Emma G.,	Rev. J. E. M. Wright,
"	17 Charles H. Emerson, Marie W. La Clair,	25 27	Reading,	Painter,	Wakefield,	Samuel H. and Maria P.,	Rev. James K. Ewer.
"	24 Ward E. Mansfield, Satie M. Pendergrace,	25 30	Reading,	Clerk,	Ireland,	Thomas and Margaret,	Rev. C. D. Hill,
"	25 William J. Drafth, Carrie W. Goodwin,	25 23	Goshen,	Milk Dealer,	Goshen,	John and Bridget,	Rev. J. F. Mears.
"	25 Walter H. Roberts, Alice S. Daniels,	25 25	Reading,	Lawyer,	Cambridge,	John A. and Elizabeth M.,	Rev. F. W. Barrows,
"	31 Frederic Classon, Gertrude Plummer,	28 18	Woburn,	Baggage Master,	West Windsor, Vt.	William and Mary,	Rev. D. P. Morgan,
Nov.	17 Charles R. Robinson, Ella B. Rockwood,	25 20	Reading,	Salesman,	North Truro,	Willard and Isabella,	Rev. William Read,
"	20 George W. Parker, Jennie L. Fames,	25 23	Boston,	Salesman,	Dorchester,	Edward T. and Sarah D.,	Rev. J. F. Mears,
"	21 Chester A. Parker, Laura B. Maxwell,	25 25	Harvard,	Engineer,	Reading,	George W. and Mary S.,	Rev. Arthur J. Hovey,
"	22 Aristides Whittier, Mabel Barbrick,	25 27	Reading,	Neck-tie Man'r	Augusta, Me.,	Jacob W. & Sufrona P.,	Rev. J. F. Mears,
Dec.	27 Charles G. Lathrop, Annie S. Clark,	20 18	Stoneham,	Boot & Shoe L'str	Reading,	Charles E. & Frances M.,	Rev. John Wright,
			Boston,		Boston,	John and Susan C.,	Boston.

Whole number of Marriages Registered in Reading for the year 1883, 39. Nativity of persons married: American, Males, 34; Females, 31; Foreign, Males, 5; Females, 8.

Deaths Registered in Reading for the Year 1883.

DATE.	NAMES.	AGE.		NAMES OF PARENTS OR HUSBANDS.	CAUSE.
		Y.	M. D.		
Jan.	4 Thomas C. Trow,	68	5 4	Dudley and Anna,	Paralysis.
"	7 Almira E. Totten,	9	1 26	Robert C. & Almira A.,	Diphtheria.
Feb.	4 William H. Snow,	11	11	Henry and Emily P.,	Umbilical Hem.
"	13 John White,	9	3	Joshua and Mary Ann,	
"	17 William E. Knight,	29	5 3	William M. and Jane L.	Heart Disease.
"	21 Edward C. Morgan,	16	9 11	— and Mary,	Consumption.
March	9 John Damon,	88	1 3	John and Hepsibeth,	Influenza.
"	21 Hiram Barrus,	60	8 16	Levi and Ameda S.,	Cerebral thromb's
"	21 Sarah Wakefield, (Parker)	91	5	William and Sarah.	Old Age.
April	7 Jonathan Nichols,	86	10 23	Jesse and Elizabeth,	Bright's Disease.
"	9 Christina C. Perkins (Cook	75		Benjamin and Abigail,	Pneumonia.
"	12 ——— Smith,			Frank M. & Louise A.,	Still Born.
"	18 Betsey C. Clifford,	83	1 6	Thomas C. and Sarah,	Old Age.
"	30 Phineas Green,	79	6 10	Phineas and Mehitable,	
May	5 Blanche Lewis,	8	5 6	Frank and Addie E.,	Bright's Disease.
"	8 Ruth Thomas, (Gould)	86	10	Samuel and Ruth,	Paralysis.
"	10 M.E. Philebrown (Rich'd'sn	73		Silas and Sally,	Heart Disease.
"	16 Sylvia F. Moulton,	20	1 14	Charles H. and Mary A.	Consumption.
"	19 Lewis Blathrow,	80	3 10		Pneumonia.
"	25 Eben A. Dunham,	23		Horace and Esther,	Consumption.
"	27 Ella F. Bunker,	2	5 15	Henry and Mary L.,	Scarlatina.
June	5 Florence May Putnam,	6	9	George A. & Georgie F.	Empyema.
"	5 Caroline Hock, (Klous)	30		John C. and Eliza,	Consumption.
"	8 Charlotte Hayden Allen,	17	6 26	Milo L. and Martha E.,	Peritonitis.
"	17 Margaret E. Barbrick,	48	11 17	Moses Barbrick,	Heart Disease.
"	19 Lucy W. Goodwin, (Weston	89		Jabez and Lucy,	Paralysis.
"	23 Mary W. Richardson (Wils'n	29	6 2	Elton F. Richardson,	Consumption.
"	23 Edith Rudolph,	3	4	John and Sarah S.,	Spina Bifida. [liv'r
"	26 Florence J. Brown,	12		Samuel & Josephine P.	Enlargement of
"	26 Edward Kliher,	6	6 11	James and Ellen,	Consumption.
July	7 Lottie E. Marshall (Stearns	32		Hiram N. & Charlotte A.	Consumpt'n. [gitis
"	17 Mary Ricker,	9	2 11	Michael and Ellen,	Ce'b'o Sp'l Menin-
"	20 James W. Borthwick,	4	8	James W. and M. J.,	Dropsy of heart.
Aug.	2 Eunice A. Loring, (Smith)	29	11	W. H. and Eunice J.,	Cuebutis.
"	27 Amelia Washburn, (Lnce)	38		Hiram and Ruth M.,	Consumption.
"	30 Martha H. Gilman, (Miller)	48	4 17	John and Margaret D.,	Consumption.
Sept.	13 Almaron Barbrick,	23	5 13	Moses and Margaret E.	Consumption.
"	14 Thomas Ambrose Muse,	2	11 20	John and Silva,	Scarlet Fever.
"	22 George Waldo Francis,	2	2 14	Richard W. & Susan I.,	Membran's Croup
Oct.	16 Marion L. Eames,	7	6 4	Leonard T. and Emily,	Diphtheria.
"	27 William Parker,	88	1 4	Richard and Hannah,	Laryngitis.
Nov.	1 — Ruggles, (male)			William J. & Mina W.,	Still Born.
"	4 Emily P. Emerson (Stimpsn	53	11	Seba and Phila,	Bright's Disease.
"	7 Joseph Stokes,	16	5 4	Joseph and Susan,	Cyanosis.
"	17 Alvin J. Porter,	16	5 4	Joel and Mary A.,	Croup.
"	21 Ellen A. Austin, (Parker)	55	7 12	Clarence Austin, [na,	Consumpt'n. [ach.
Dec.	8 William Crook,	68	7 11	Lambertus & Wilhelmi-	Cancer in stom-
"	27 William B. Reed,	46	9 13	Luther and Lois B.,	Alcoholism.

Deaths Registered as above, 48. Males, 22. Females, 26.

THERE WERE BETWEEN 90 AND 100— 1.
 80 " 90— 7.
 70 " 80— 3.
 60 " 70— 3.
 50 " 60— 2.
 40 " 50— 3.
 30 " 40— 3.
 20 " 30— 6.
 10 " 20— 4.
 UNDER 10 —16.

Dogs Licensed.

Whole number of Dogs licensed for the year 1883.....114.

Males, 112.

Females, 2.

112 males at \$2.00 each.....\$224.00

2 Females at 5.00 " 10.00

\$234.00

Fees for 114 licenses, at 20 cents each.....22.80

Paid County Treasurer as per receipt \$211.20

MIDDLESEX, ss., Dec. 10, 1883.

Wm. J. Wightman, Esq., Clerk of the Town of Reading, has paid into the Treasury of said Middlesex County, two hundred eleven and 20-100 dollars for Dog Licenses for the year eighteen hundred and eighty three, as per his account of this date.

AMOS STONE, County Treasurer.

WM. J. WIGHTMAN, Town Clerk.

OVERSEERS' ACCOUNT.

Alms house.

INMATES.

Catharine O'Keefe.....	Age 77 years.
Joanna Wall.....	84
Caroline E. Wiley.....	77
Mary Brown.....	83
Hannah Welch.....	69
Charlotte Weston, admitted May 30, 1883.....	82
Caroline Hook, { Admitted March 3, 1883.....	31
Died June 5, 1883.	
Lena Hook, admitted March 3, 1883.....	4
Mabel Johnson, left July 1, 1883.....	16
Jonathan Pratt.....	74
Daniel Spokesfield.....	65
Alpheus Austin.....	64
James Hunter.....	40

RECEIVED.

Charles Tweed, board for year March 1, 1883, to	
March 1, 1884.....	\$156 00
George W. Beasley, board for year to March 1, 1884,	156 00
Catharine O'Keefe, for pension.....	96 00
" " for State aid.....	48 00
George Beasley, labor on highway.....	53 70
" " " " common.....	54 10
" " " " Mineral street bridge.....	7 50
" " " " New England House.....	32 25
" " " " removing snow.....	10 00

Amount carried forward,

\$613 55

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$613 55
George Beasley, lighting street lamps.....	250 25
“ “ for wood sold.....	26 62
“ “ for produce sold.....	83 82
Parker & Stone, for 1 barrel apples.....	3 00
George H. Parker, for board.....	12 00
J. Todd, for board.....	7 00
James W. Studley, for board.....	35 50
Annie Sanborn, for board	18 00
Travellers, for board,.....	75
George Beasley, supplies for 277 tramps.....	83 10
<i>Total amount received,</i>	<hr/> \$1,133 59

EXPENDED.

George Beasley, keeper of Almshouse, salary.....	\$450 00
Merrick A. Stone, groceries.....	165 80
Parker & Stone, “	294 77
G. W. Atkinson, “	287 83
Henry Harnden, provisions.....	61 46
D. W. Berry, “	42 53
W. N. Whipple, “	30 02
L. G. Richardson, “	93 59
Est. T. C. Trow, “	9 75
W. Hawes, fish.....	35 63
H. L. Day, crackers.....	83 15
Wendell Bancroft, coal.....	42 75
Francis Bartley, clothing.....	10 55
James Reid, dry goods.....	14 34
Matthew Hanley, oil cloth, etc.....	11 66
R. C. Totten, blacksmith work.....	8 65
A. S. Richardson, copper pump.....	7 75
Emily Ruggles, dry goods.....	15 03
Albert Nichols, wood	13 02
Edward F. Parker, wood.....	36 00
J. L. Pratt, wood	8 00
E. B. Eames, ice.....	9 00
Pierce & Canterbury, kerosene oil.....	7 50

Amount carried forward, \$1,738 78

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$1,738 78
M. E. Nichols, oil.....	27
W. H. Willis & Son, medicines.....	15 25
F. F. Brown, M. D., medical attendance.....	37 25
G. C. Gleason, undertaker.....	25 00
T. Littlefield, stove and repairs.....	8 75
J. A. Blunt, blacksmith.....	10 12
Cummings' express.....	80
Mary F. Riordan, labor in house.....	130 00
Moses Bancroft, Johnson pump.....	5 25
Keeper of Almshouse, boots and shoes furnished	
inmates.....	23 25
carpet purchased.....	22 00
pigs ".....	7 50
fish ".....	9 27
plow ".....	5 00
standing grass purchased	3 00
sundries for inmates.....	37 65
for labor.....	11 75
	<hr/> \$2,090 89
Total amount expended.....	\$2,090 89
" " received	1,133 59
Net expense of poor at Almshouse.....	<hr/> \$957 30

RELIEF OF POOR OUT OF ALMSHOUSE.

Eliza M. Bancroft, supplies.....	\$72 00
Lucy Freeman, supplies.....	14 24
Caroline Weichman, fuel \$29.25, supplies \$60.00...	89 25
George E. Leathe, supplies.....	96 00
Mary M. Stewart ".....	70
Louise R. Parker, ".....	84 50
Marcella Wood, rent.....	18 00
William H. Manning, supplies.....	104 57
Mary A. Blanchard, fuel \$25.25, supplies \$18.80...	44 05
Daniel Barnard, " 10.50, " 26.41...	36 91
John R. Dennett, " 7.00, " 16.00...	23 00

Amount carried forward,

\$583 22

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$583 22
Bradford Field, supplies.....	25 00
Mrs. Benjamin Weston, fuel \$14.00, supplies \$19 20	33 20
Hannah Nichols, rent.....	3 00
George H. Daland, supplies.....	2 63
John H. Daland, supplies.....	23 52
Frank Best. board at Reform School.....	67 50
Daniel Sullivan, supplies.....	9 06
George E. Hopkins. medical attendance, etc.....	18 45
Sarah Judkins, fuel.....	7 00
Henry W. Kummer, medical attendance.....	4 00
George Thayer, board.....	2 43
Cleveland B. Holt, fuel \$22.38, supplies \$100.34..	122 72
Charles Jenkins, supplies, \$145 94,	
Less State aid received. 144.00.....	1 94
	<hr/> \$903 67

LUNATIC HOSPITALS.

Worcester, Benjamin Weston.....	174 46
“ Mary Gowing.....	179 49
Northampton. Abigail P. Beers.....	174 68
Danvers, Ida M. Lovejoy.....	114 21
“ George E. Hopkins.....	94 25
	<hr/> \$737 09

TRAMPS.

George Beasley, keeper, supplies for 277 tramps	\$83 10
	<hr/>
Total expense of Poor out of house.....	\$1,723 86
Net expense of Poor at Almshouse.....	957 30
	<hr/>
Total expense of Poor.....	\$2,681 16
Appropriation for support of Poor.....	\$2,800 00
Amount expended.....	\$2,681 16
“ unexpended.....	118 84
	<hr/> \$2,800 00

PAID ON ACCOUNT OF CITIES AND TOWNS.

Lawrence, Delia Duncan.....	\$ 7 50	
Malden, Sarah L. Penny.....	10 50	
Boston, Luella R. Lloyd.....	72 88	
Stoneham, Sarah E. Berry.....	22 26	
Malden, James Kelligher.....	66 25	
Boston, Bridget Galvin.....	43 56	
Cambridge, Lawrence Gilbert.....	53 00	
Lynnfield, Edwin L. Hewes.....	135 72	
Wakefield, Martin Donohoe.....	8 75	
		<hr/> \$420 42

RECEIVED FROM CITIES AND TOWNS.

Boston, Luella R. Lloyd.....	\$80 75	
“ Bridget Galvin.....	43 56	
Lynnfield, Edwin L. Hewes.....	138 00	
Orange, Emma Merrill.....	7 75	
Malden, Sarah L. Penny.....	1 25	
		<hr/> \$271 31

PERSONAL PROPERTY AT ALMSHOUSE.

Furniture, crockery, tinware, etc.....	\$346 52
Stoves and apparatus	119 00
Provisions.....	158 77
Beds and bedding	342 85
Horse.....	100 00
2 cows.....	80 00
Calf.....	15 00
3 swine.....	30 00
24 fowls.....	18 00
Light wagon.....	70 00
Farm wagon.....	50 00
Stone wagon.....	15 00
2 carts.....	75 00
Horse sled.....	18 00
Sleigh.....	10 00

Amount carried forward.

\$1,448 14

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$1,448 14
Wheelbarrow.	3 00
Mowing machine.....	18 00
Snow plough.....	5 00
Hay.....	94 50
Grain.....	5 20
Manure	75 00
Coal and wood	69 24
Lumber and posts.....	5 00
Fence wire.....	1 50
Harnesses.....	115 00
Farming tools.....	121 60
	—————\$1,961 18

LEWIS W. BANCROFT,	} Overseers of Poor.
JAMES A. BANCROFT,	
CHAS. H. NOWELL.	

ASSESSORS' REPORT.

VALUATION OF ESTATES, REAL AND PERSONAL, TAXED IN THIS TOWN, MAY 1, 1883.

Valuation of Real Estate,.....	\$2,155,316 00	
“ “ Personal Estate,.....	233,567 00	
Total Valuation,.....	<hr/>	\$2,388,883 00
Whole number of polls, 889, \$2.00,..		\$1.788 00
Amount of town appropriations,.....	\$30,530 00	
“ “ State tax,.....	2,055 00	
“ “ County tax,.....	1,224 86	
	<hr/>	\$33,809 86

Total amount assessed including overlay, \$34,745 73

Rate of taxation, \$13.80 per \$1,000.

Total number of polls,.....	889
“ “ “ horses,.....	303
“ “ “ cows,.....	308
“ “ “ oxen,.....	2
“ “ “ sheep,.....	2
“ “ “ dwelling houses,.....	702
“ “ “ acres of land,.....	5735

Total value of real estate in 1883,.....	\$2,155,316 00
“ “ “ “ “ “ 1882,.....	2,150,522 00

Increase in 1883,..... \$4,794 00

Total value of personal estate in 1883,...	\$233,567 00
“ “ “ “ “ “ 1882,...	196,666 00

Increase in 1883,..... \$36,901 00

Mortgages assessed in 1883,.....	\$735 00
“ “ “ 1882,.....	735 00

Respectfully submitted,

LEWIS M. BANCROFT,	}	Assessors of Reading.
JAMES A. BANCROFT,		
CHARLES H. NOWELL,		

SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNT.

STREET LIGHTS.

Appropriation.....		\$800 00
Citizen's Gas Light Company, gas.....	\$183 73	
F. H. LaClair, for lighting.....	12 00	
J. C. Cook, repairing lanterns.....	3 10	
A. H. Watkins, for gasoline.....	66 68	
Wm. B. Berry & Co., for gasoline... ..	7 50	
C. E. Merrill, express on lanterns	1 50	
Boston and Maine R. R., freight.....	39	
Timothy Riordon, for labor setting lamp posts....	2 63	
Daniel Tufts, posts and lanterns.....	38 25	
F. O. Dewey & Co., lanterns.....	31 36	
L. Descalzo & Co., pipe and labor.....	22 70	
Globe Gas Light Co., gasoline filler.....	85	
Wilbur C. Parker, for lighting.....	21 45	
James Sullivan, for labor.....	2 25	
Wm. H. Bancroft, for repairs... ..	15 08	
Gould & Co., gasoline.....	6 85	
Pierce & Canterbury, kerosene.....	7 45	
M. E. Nichols, for repairs.....	87	
Wm. M. Titus.....	80	
Wendell Bancroft, posts....	4 95	
Geo. E. Lang, express.....	1 60	
T. Littlefield, repairs.....	2 75	
Cumming's Express.....	7 40	
Geo. Beasley, keeper, for lighting.....	250 25	
Unexpended	107 61	
	<hr/>	800 00

SALARIES OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Appropriation.....	\$1,950 00
J. A. Bancroft, services as Treasurer to April 1, 1883.....	\$12 50
J. A. Bancroft, services as Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor.....	265 00
J. A. Bancroft, services as School Committee..	50 00
James Reid, Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor, to April 1, 1883.....	40 00
William J. Holden, Selectman, Assessor, Overseer of the Poor, to April 1, 1883.....	40 00
George E. Putney, services as School Committee	55 00
William L. Crowe, services as Constable to April 1, 1883.....	3 00
L. W. Erskine, services as Constable.....	4 80
Edwin Basset, services, Constable.....	3 50
Edwin Basset, services as Truant Officer.....	7 50
S. E. Parker, services as School Committee....	55 00
Joseph L. Pratt, Selectman, Assessor, Overseer of the Poor, to April 1, 1883.....	30 00
Jonathan Moulton, Road Commissioner, to April 1, 1883.....	4 17
H. E. Cox, services, Constable, to April 1, 1883	12 00
L. M. Bancroft, Selectman, Assessor, Overseer of the Poor.....	300 00
William J. Wightman, services as Town Clerk..	50 00
William J. Wightman, making official records..	15 00
H. G. Wadlin, services as School Committee....	65 00
Charles H. Nowell, services as Auditor.....	10 00
Charles H. Nowell, Selectman, Assessor, Overseer of the Poor.....	250 00
H. G. Kittredge, services as School Committee.	55 00
H. S. La Clair, services, Road Commissioner, to April 1, 1883.....	4 17
<i>Amount carried forward.</i>	<u>\$1,331 64</u>

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$1,331 64	
Edw. F. Parker, services as Treasurer.....	137 50	
Edw. F. Parker, services as School Committee..	70 00	
R. D. Temple, services as Collector.....	350 00	
Solon Bancroft, services as Moderator.....	10 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$1,879 14	
Unexpended.....	70 86	
	<hr/>	\$1,950 00

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Appropriation.....		\$300 00
Asa Parker, overtaxation in 1882.....	\$2 38	
Augusta S. Barrus, " " "	15 00	
Eliza J. Safford, reassessed to William Proctor.	6 90	
Joseph H. Gleason, " " Lucy A. Hopkins	6 69	
Charles Wakefield.....	11 03	
Charles and Almina Battell.....	4 83	
A. and E. G. Prescott.....	1 38	
R. Dexter Temple, collector, list of 1880, pers'l.	27 58	
R. Dexter Temple, collector, list of 1881, real..	39 37	
R. Dexter Temple, collector, list of 1881, pers'l.	105 67	
R. Dexter Temple, collector, list of 1882, real..	52 66	
R. Dexter Temple, collector, list of 1882, pers'l.	26 06	
Unexpended	45	
	<hr/>	300 00

CEMETERY.

Appropriation.....		\$250 00
Solon Bancroft, on account of Trustees.....	\$100 00	
Unexpended	150 00	
	<hr/>	250 00

OLD SOUTH CLOCK.

Appropriation		\$50 00
Old South Society.....	\$50 00	

INTEREST.

Appropriation.....	\$2,200 00	
Received of N. E. Trust Co., interest on deposit.....	177 10	
Received, Blackstone Nat. Bank, on deposit.....	53 25	
	<hr/>	\$2,430 35
Theron Johnson.....	\$440 00	
Chrisje Ridder.....	32 00	
Amanda Goldsmith.....	45 00	
State Treasurer.....	300 00	
Harriet Brown.....	12 00	
Institution for Savings, Newburyport.....	780 00	
Mrs. Mary Stimpson.....	42 50	
Prissie A. Leathe.....	22 50	
Warren Institution for Savings.....	240 00	
First National Bank, Chelsea.....	76 65	
Jules R. Allen.....	5 00	
Miss Mary Stimpson.....	45 00	
Gilman C. Gleason, interest on trust funds for care of cemetery lots.....	9 00	
	<hr/>	\$2,049 65
Unexpended.....	380 70	
	<hr/>	2,430 35

ALMSHOUSE REPAIRS.

Appropriation.....	\$200 00	
Shingles sold.....	24 87	
	<hr/>	\$224 87
Wendell Bancroft, for shingles.....	\$102 30	
N. W. Broad, lumber and labor.....	102 92	
Unexpended.....	19 65	
	<hr/>	224 87

SOLDIERS' GRAVES.

Appropriation.....	\$100 00
Harley Prentiss, Quartermaster.....	\$100 00

STATE AID.

Appropriation.....		\$1,500 00
Dorcas Berry.....	\$48 00	
Seth Bessey.....	54 00	
Mary A. Blanchard.....	48 00	
George W. Carleton.....	28 00	
Henry Deadman.....	48 00	
Elizabeth W. De Ronde.....	48 00	
Lydia C. Eaton.....	20 00	
Margaret Pinkham.....	44 00	
Sarah Hettler.....	48 00	
Eliza A. Hobbs.....	48 00	
Lambertus W. Krook.....	9 00	
Charles B. Leathe.....	20 00	
William Mears.....	18 00	
Benjamin McAlister.....	70 00	
Sarah Nichols.....	48 00	
William R. Nichols.....	12 00	
George A. Northey.....	32 00	
Catherine O'Keefe.....	48 00	
William B. Reed.....	30 00	
Charlotte Richardson.....	48 00	
Harriet Robinson.....	48 00	
Henry F. Scruton.....	72 00	
Eliza Stevens.....	48 00	
Marcella Wood.....	48 00	
		<hr/>
To be reimbursed by the Commonwealth.....	\$985 00	
Noble Bunker.....	\$24 00	
John M. Houseman.....	144 00	
Charles Jenkins.....	144 00	
		<hr/>
One half to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth	312 00	
Unexpended.....	203 00	
		<hr/>
		1,500 00

JOHNSON PUMPS.

Appropriation.....		\$60 00
National Manufacturing Co.....	\$60 00	

INVESTIGATION OF WATER SUPPLY.

Appropriation.....		\$500 00
B. F. Smith, for driving pipe.....	\$238 00	
J. A. Bancroft, taking levels.....	9 00	
Dr. E. S. Wood, analyzing water.....	15 00	
Everett Parker, distributing reports.....	2 75	
C. M. Barrows & Co., printing reports.....	18 00	
E. Appleton, services as committee.....	30 00	
E. H. Gowing, expenses on committee.....	4 00	
A. S. Richardson, pumping water.....	1 00	
A. W. Danforth.....	90	
George H. Parker, expenses and services as committee.....	15 00	
Unexpended	166 35	
		500 00

IMPROVEMENT OF COMMON.

Appropriation.....		\$500 00
M. E. Nichols, painting band stand.....	\$18 59	
William L. Jones, labor.....	46 00	
William L. Jones, manure.....	12 00	
J. E. Wilkins, labor.....	8 75	
Fred Tuzon, labor.....	8 75	
T. Riordan, labor.....	45	
Hiram Litchfield, labor.....	23 25	
D. Doucette, edge stone and labor.....	172 60	
James Sullivan, labor.....	10 87	
Samuel Brown, labor.....	25	
Emerson Smith, labor.....	23 37	
Garfield & Co., signs.....	2 00	
George Beasley, labor.....	54 10	
J. A. Bancroft, labor.....	6 00	
J. A. Bancroft, surveying.....	14 00	
L. M. Bancroft, labor.....	6 20	
Parker & Stone, grass seed.....	1 05	
Parker & Stone, phosphate.....	2 00	
Engine-house lot. soil.....	81 20	
	\$491 43	
Unexpended	8 57	
		500 00

WAGON AT ALMSHOUSE.

Appropriation.....		\$100 00
Samuel Brown, repairs on wagon	\$58 50	
P. McCall, harness.....	48 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$106 50	
Overdrawn		6 50

ENGINE HOUSE.

Appropriation.....		\$7,850 00
406 loads soil.....		81 20
James E. Wilkins, for labor.....	1 75	
R. M. Pulsifer, publishing notices.....	6 38	
Dalton & Ingersoll, iron pipe.....	1 85	
James E. Wilkins, cellar wall.....	270 00	
Boston & Maine Railroad, freight.....	1 17	
L. Decalzo & Co., gas pipe.....	8 86	
H. G. Wadlin, architect.....	125 00	
Ellenwood & McDonald, contract.....	3057 00	
Ellenwood & McDonald, extra work	18 85	
Gooch & Pray, contract.....	4000 00	
Geo. L. Damon, vault doors.....	130 00	
R. D. Wilkins, wing walls.....	50 25	
Oren N. Jones, labor.....	19 25	
George Beasley, labor.....	32 25	
Timothy Reordon, “	7 88	
James Sullivan, “	3 00	
Wendell Bancroft, drain pipe and coal	16 95	
Burdett & Williams, bolts	1 26	
Watson & Besbee, lumber.....	5 08	
L. M. Bancroft, labor and keys	16 96	
M. C. Warren & Co., locks.....	14 00	
Geo. B. Lothrop & Co., keys	5 20	
Bagnall & Lond, sheives.....	7 00	
Bliss Bros., hooks and cleats.....	8 60	
M. W. Pierce & Co., gas fixtures.....	46 00	
	<hr/>	
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>		\$7,854 54

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$7,854 54	
Albert J. Bancroft, lumber and labor.....	27 03	
Moses E. Nichols, painting	14 04	
Wm. E. Moulton, teaming.....	50	
Mrs. J. Howard, desk, etc.....	5 00	
Shepard, Norwell & Co., blankets.....	1 62	
J. S. Paine, mattresses for lockup.....	7 50	
John A. Blunt, iron work.....	7 42	
Parker & Stone, pails.....	56	
L. W. Erskine, hardware and labor	6 79	
Cummings' express, teaming.....	1 75	
G. W. Atkinson, covering stone	3 75	
Unexpended.....	70	
	<hr/>	7,931 20

STEAMER AND APPURTENANCES.

Appropriation....		\$5000 00
Button Fire Engine Co., steamer and hose carriage	\$3985 00	
H. M. Sawyer, oil suits	39 00	
W. Bancroft, wood and coal.....	61 45	
Fabric Fire Hose Co., hose	296 50	
P. McCall, harnesses.....	264 25	
J. S. Judkins, labor	1 00	
Button Fire Engine Co., repairing valves	23 15	
Sewall & Day Cordage Co., ropes	33 40	
Brown & Co., stove.....	35 00	
S. W. Bowker, express on stove.....	2 50	
Wm. L. Crowe, labor and services as committee.	25 00	
Holland & Daniels, curtains	15 50	
E. B. Harrington, expenses and services on committee	14 60	
W. P. B. Brooks, furniture.....	31 25	
Geo. H. Parker, services as committee and expenses	27 37	
Unexpended	145 03	
	<hr/>	5000 00

SAFE FOR TOWN OFFICE.

Appropriation.....		\$500 00
George L. Damon.....	260 00	
Unexpended	240 00	
	<hr/>	\$500 00

ERECTING STREET LIGHT, WOBURN STREET.

Appropriation.....		\$30 00
F. O. Dewey & Co., lantern.....	\$6 25	
Wendell Bancroft, lamp post.....	1 65	
Unexpended.....	22 10	
		<hr/> 30 00

FIRE HOSE.

Appropriation.....		\$625 00
American Fire Hose Mfg. Co.....	\$471 50	
Fabric Fire Hose Co.....	153 50	
		<hr/> 625 00

RESERVOIR, CORNER CHARLES AND PEARL STREETS.

Appropriation.....		\$350 00
Wendell Bancroft, bricks and cement.....	\$185 10	
S. M. Hall, labor.....	53 50	
Chelmsford Foundry Co., castings.....	3 50	
Smith & Anthony Stove Co., castings.....	5 95	
Michael Forbes, labor.....	69 00	
Unexpended	32 95	
		<hr/> 350 00

POLICE.

Appropriation.....		\$300 00
John Robbins, badges.....	\$4 20	
William Read & Son, billies and handcuffs.....	7 75	
J. P. Lovell & Son, twisters	2 75	
L. W. Erskine, services as police.....	120 34	
Edwin Bassett, " "	68 50	
F. E. Brooks, " "	2 00	
Wm. L. Jones, " "	25 00	
E. B. Eames, " "	4 25	
Webster Eames, " "	16 00	
J. C. Cook, " "	15 00	
A. S. Richardson, " "	2 00	
John Forest, horse hire for police.....	4 50	
Unexpended	27 71	
		<hr/> 300 00

NIGHT WATCHMAN.

Appropriation.....		\$200 00
Webster Eames, services as watchman.....	\$165 25	
L. W. Erskine, “ “ 	34 00	
William H. Barns, lantern for watchman.....	75	
	<hr/>	200 00

PRINTING.

Appropriation.....		\$225 00
Wm. H. Twombly, printing for Town Clerk.....	\$2 00	
Wm. H. Twombly, “ “ Selectmen	28 25	
C. M. Barrows & Co., printing town reports....	145 00	
F. W. Barry, printing bill heads.....	2 25	
Doane & Greenough, printing for Assessors.....	7 50	
C. M. Barrows & Co., “ tax bills.....	4 25	
C. M. Barrows & Co., “ for Overseers of the Poor.....	5 50	
C. M. Barrows & Co., printing for Selectmen...	2 50	
Unexpended.....	27 75	
	<hr/>	225 00

TOWN OFFICE.

Appropriation.....		\$200 00
Lewis E. Gleason, for postage stamps.....	\$1 50	
Everett Parker, cleaning office.....	2 75	
F. W. Barrey, order book	9 68	
Wendell Bancroft, coal.....	5 42	
M. Hanley, repairing chairs.....	1 50	
E. F. Parker, postage stamps.....	2 00	
Hooper, Lewis & Co., rubber bands.....	1 25	
Wm. M. Titus, stove pipe	33	
L. M. Bancroft, postage stamps and stationery.	2 25	
Geo. E. Lang, express.....	50	
Wm. Proctor, rent of office.....	137 50	
Holland & Daniels, curtains.....	5 90	
Geo. Beasley, keeper for wood	8 00	
Garfield & Co., sign.....	2 00	
Unexpended.....	19 42	
	<hr/>	200 00

CONCRETE SIDEWALKS.

Appropriation	\$500 00	
Cash of Lucius Turner.....	36 70	
“ Thomas O. Richardson.....	95 67	
“ Joseph L. Pratt.....	100 82	
“ Luther Hutchings.....	58 57	
“ Richard Robinson.....	40 09	
“ A. J. Varney.....	16 35	
“ Edgar Damon.....	31 40	
	<hr/>	\$879 60
Robert C. Totten, edgestone.....	\$42 46	
D. Doucette, edgestone.....	377 51	
George H. Nichols, concrete.....	239 82	
T. R. Newhall, edgestone....	135 22	
G. W. Atkinson, edgestone.....	40 66	
William L. Jones, labor.....	5 00	
A. J. Varney, labor.....	8 40	
C. E. Merrill, concrete.....	8 75	
	<hr/>	\$857 82
Unexpended	21 78	
	<hr/>	879 60

ARCHING WELL, GREEN STREET.

Appropriation.....		\$200 00
S. M. Hall, mason work.....	\$31 12	
Chelmsford Foundry Co., cover.....	3 50	
Wm. E. Moulton, labor.....	13 50	
Wendell Bancroft, labor and materials	151 88	
	<hr/>	200 00
Amount due Wendell Bancroft, for labor and materials.....		123 31

CROSSWALK FROM PLEASANT STREET.

Appropriation.....		\$200 00
William L. Jones, labor	\$33 00	
Hiram Litchfield, labor.....	7 50	
	<hr/>	
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$40 50	

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$40 50	
Oren N. Jones, labor.....	8 75	
Wm. Frost, "	1 50	
Emerson Smith, "	12 50	
Geo. H. Nichols, concrete	67 50	
Levi Newell, gravel.....	1 44	
	<hr/>	
	132 19	
Unexpended.....	67 81	
	<hr/>	\$200 00

SIDEWALK FROM CENTRE AVENUE TO MAIN STREET.

Appropriation.....		\$200 00
Wm. L. Jones, labor.....	\$13 00	
Hiram Litchfield, "	4 50	
Wm. E. Moulton, "	18 75	
J. D. Jones, "	6 00	
Peter Froton, "	12 00	
Fred Tuzon, "	15 75	
J. A. Eames, "	2 50	
T. Riordan, "	15 75	
Charles Green, "	18 00	
Wm. Porter, gravel.....	8 40	
Levi Newell, "	4 68	
	<hr/>	
	119 33	
Unexpended.....	80 67	
	<hr/>	200 00

MINERAL STREET BRIDGE.

Appropriation.....		\$1,500 00
Cash of Boston & Maine R. R. Co.....		498 94
		<hr/>
		1998 94
D. Doucette, stone.....	28 00	
Hiram Litchfield, labor.....	65 24	
Wm. L. Jones, "	224 75	
	<hr/>	
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$317 99	

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$317 99	
T. Riordan, labor.....	70 44	
Michael Forbes "	251 48	
J. D. Jones, "	37 88	
Oren N. Jones, "	34 13	
Wm. Frost, "	6 75	
James Sullivan, "	39 38	
Albert J. Bancroft, contract.....	990 00	
Albert J. Bancroft, extra labor.....	4 90	
Albert J. Bancroft, railing.....	53 70	
James A. Bancroft, labor.....	9 50	
Martin Forbes, "	24 76	
George Beasley, "	7 50	
T. F. Gould, "	4 83	
Patrick Burns, "	2 63	
Emerson Smith, "	64 74	
Wm. E. Moulton, stone.....	2 00	
Wendell Bancroft, lumber.....	56	
David C. Temple, gravel.....	54 40	
Oscar Foote, "	12 00	
Clerk of courts, recording notices.....	6 20	
	<hr/>	
	1995 77	
Unexpended.....	3 17	
	<hr/>	
		1998 94

REMOVING SNOW.

Appropriation.....		\$450 00
Wm. E. Moulton, labor	\$40 50	
Jonathan Moulton, "	15 81	
T. Riordan, "	44	
T. F. Gould, "	2 10	
Wm. L. Jones, "	52 00	
W. A. Bancroft, "	20 40	
C. A. Weston, "	3 20	
C. A. Weston, snow plow.....	10 00	
R. M. Boyce, labor.....	10 20	
	<hr/>	
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$154 65	

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$154 65	
D. P. Babb, labor.....	26 85	
Henry Gorus, ".....	1 75	
Wendell Bancroft, labor.....	5 75	
H. S. LaClair, ".....	2 60	
H. S. LaClair, snow plow.....	10 00	
George Beasley, labor.....	10 00	
Albert F. Emerson, labor.....	2 50	
	<hr/>	
	214 10	
Unexpended.....	235 90	
	<hr/>	
		450 00

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Appropriation.....		\$300 00
R. D. Temple, auctioneer license.....		2 00
I. W. Ruggles, license for billiard table.....		2 00
James Dewhurst, " " " ".....		2 00
		<hr/>
		\$306 00
P. B. Teede, oiling trees.....	\$3 00	
Lyceum Hall Association, use of hall.....	85 00	
Everett Parker, posting notices..	2 45	
A. S. Richardson, pump on Main street.....	13 50	
A. S. Richardson, repairs of pumps	6 75	
G. W. Dean, ringing bell for town meetings....	6 00	
G. W. Dean, ringing bell on fourth of July.....	2 00	
G. W. Dean, care of flag.....	5 00	
C. B. Stevens, recording deeds and plan.....	1 50	
A. J. Bancroft, repairs on band stand.....	18 73	
S. E. Parker, taking census of school children..	12 00	
T. Groom & Co., collector's book.....	1 50	
Walter Rayner, expense as committee on water-supply	3 50	
I. W. Ruggles, services as committee on engine-house, 1882.....	10 00	
Wm. E. Moulton, cleaning well on Common....	3 00	
White & Gould, moving safes.....	35 00	
G. C. Gleason, making return of deaths	12 00	
	<hr/>	
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$220 93	

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$220 93	
F. F. Brown, reporting births 1883-1884.....	7 00	
Geo. E. Putney, " " "	1 00	
Geo. E. Lang, express for Town Clerk.....	15	
H. L. Cummings, " " " "	1 20	
Edward F. Parker, services as Truant Officer for two years	10 00	
Edward F. Parker, expenses as Treasurer.....	8 63	
Wm. L. Jones, aid to traveler.....	22	
Wm. J. Wightman, registering births, deaths and marriages for year 1883.....	47 15	
Wm. J. Wightman, stationery, stamps and dog licenses	5 50	
Wm. J. Wightman, issuing certificate to Repres- entative.....	2 00	
	<hr/>	
	303 78	
Unexpended.....	2 22	
	<hr/>	
		306 00

TOWN DEBT.

Appropriation.....	\$2,380 00	
New Loan.....	800 00	
" "	500 00	
" "	3,000 00	
" "	1,000 00	
" "	500 00	
Temporary Loan.....	3,000 00	
	<hr/>	
		\$11,180 00
Note paid Chriszee Ridder.....	800 00	
" Amanda Goldsmith.....	2,000 00	
" Charlotte Weston.....	35 00	
" Harriett A. Brown.....	360 00	
" Mrs. Mary Stimpson.....	500 00	
" Mrs. Mary Stimpson.....	500 00	
" Miss Mary Stimpson.....	1,000 00	
" Warren Institution for Savings.....	3,000 00	
" Temporary Loan.....	3,000 00	
Balance unexpended.....	45 00	
	<hr/>	
		11,180 00

SCHOOLS.

Appropriation	\$8,100 00
From School Committee.	152 86
	<hr/>
	\$8,252 86
Amount expended	8,252 86

INCIDENTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES.

Appropriation	\$700 00
From School Committee.	95 16
	<hr/>
	\$795 16
Amount expended	795 16

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Appropriation	\$1,700 00
Amount expended	\$1,628 90
Unexpended	71 10
	<hr/>
	1,700 00

APPROPRIATIONS.

For Schools	\$8,100 00
School Incidentals	700 00
Highways and Bridges	3,000 00
Support of Poor	2,800 00
State Aid	1,500 00
Interest on Town Debt	2,200 00
Reduction of Town Debt	2,380 00
Salaries of Town Officers	1,950 00
Fire Department	1,700 00
Street Lamps	800 00
Public Library	400 00
	<hr/>
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$25,530 00

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$25,530 00
Abatement of Taxes.....	300 00
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	300 00
Printing.....	225 00
Town Office.....	200 00
Police.....	300 00
Night Watch.....	200 00
Cemetery.....	250 00
Soldiers' Graves.....	100 00
Old South Clock.....	50 00
Cisterns.....	350 00
Removing Snow.....	450 00
Concrete Sidewalks.....	500 00
New Engine House.....	7,850 00
Steam Fire Engine.....	5,000 00
Bridge, Mineral Street.....	1,500 00
Engine Hose.....	625 00
Investigation of Water Supply.....	500 00
Improvement of Common.....	500 00
Walnut Street School House.....	500 00
Safe for Town Office.....	500 00
Crosswalk from Pleasant Street.....	200 00
Sidewalk from Centre Ave. to Main St....	200 00
Almshouse Repairs.....	200 00
Arching Green Street Well.....	200 00
Wagon for Almshouse... ..	100 00
Johnson Pumps.....	60 00
Erecting Street Lights.....	30 00
	<hr/> \$46,720 00

EXPENDED.

For Schools.....	\$8,100 00
School Incidentals	700 00
Highways and Bridges.....	2,983 03
Support of Poor.....	2,822 73
Paid on acct. Cities and Towns for Poor...	422 85
State Aid.....	1,297 00

Amount carried forward, \$16,325 61

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$16,325 61	
Interest on Town Debt.....	1,819 30	
Reduction of ".....	2,335 00	
Salaries of Town Officers.....	1,879 14	
Fire Department.....	1,628 90	
Street Lights.....	692 39	
Public Library.....	400 00	
Abatement of Taxes.....	299 55	
Miscellaneous Expenses	297 78	
Printing	197 50	
Town Office.....	180 58	
Police.....	272 29	
Night Watch.....	200 00	
Cemetery	100 00	
Soldiers' Graves.....	100 00	
Old South Clock.....	50 00	
Cisterns	317 05	
Removing Snow.....	214 10	
Concrete Sidewalks	478 22	
New Engine House.....	7,849 30	
Steam Fire Engine.....	4,854 97	
Bridge, Mineral Street.....	1,496 83	
Engine Hose.....	625 00	
Investigation of Water Supply.....	333 65	
Improvement of Common.....	491 43	
Walnut Street School House.....	500 00	
Safe for Town Office.....	260 00	
Crosswalk from Pleasant Street.....	132 19	
Almshouse Repairs.....	180 35	
Arching Green Street Well.....	200 00	
Wagon for Almshouse.....	106 50	
Johnson Pumps.....	60 00	
Erecting Street Lights.....	7 90	
Sidewalk from Center Ave. to Main St.....	119 33	
	<hr/>	15,004 86
Balance unexpended.....		1,715 14
		<hr/>
		\$46,720 00

SUMMARY.

APPROPRIATIONS AND RECEIPTS.

For Schools.....	8,100 00
School Incidentals.....	700 00
Highways and Bridges.....	3,000 00
Support of Poor.....	2,800 00
State Aid	1,500 00
Interest on Town Debt.....	2,200 00
Reduction of Town Debt.....	2,380 00
Salaries of Town Officers.....	1,950 00
Fire Department.....	1,700 00
Street Lamps	800 00
Public Library	400 00
Abatement of Taxes.....	300 00
Miscellaneous Expenses	300 00
Printing	225 00
Town Office.....	200 00
Police.....	300 00
Night Watch.....	200 00
Cemetery	250 00
Soldiers' Graves.....	100 00
Old South Clock.....	50 00
Cisterns	350 00
Removing Snow.....	450 00
Concrete Sidewalks.....	500 00
New Engine House.....	7,850 00
Steam Fire Engine.....	5,000 00
Bridge, Mineral Street.....	1,500 00
Engine Hose.....	625 00
Investigation of Water Supply.....	500 00
Improvement of Common.....	500 00
Walnut Street School House.....	500 00
Safe for Town Office.....	500 00

Amount carried forward,

\$45,730 00

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$45,730 00
Crosswalk from Pleasant Street.....	200 00
Sidewalk from Centre Ave. to Main St....	200 00
Almshouse Repairs.....	200 00
Arching Green Street Well.....	200 00
Wagon for Almshouse.....	100 00
Johnson Pumps.....	60 00
Erecting Street Lights.....	30 00
<hr/>	
Amount of Appropriations.....	\$46,720 00

RECEIVED.

Replacement of Loan.....	\$8,800 00
Dog Tax of 1882... ..	\$187 49
Dog Tax of 1883	204 86
<hr/>	
	392 35
School Committee paid.....	248 02
Road Surveyor paid.....	35 25
Licenses paid.....	6 00
Boston & Maine Railroad paid.....	498 94
Keeper Almshouse paid.....	616 07
On account Concrete laid	379 60
Interest on Deposits.....	230 35
T. J. Mayall paid	275 00
Miscellaneous	28 87
<hr/>	
	11,510 45
<hr/>	
	\$58,230 45

SELECTMEN'S ORDERS.

For Schools.....	\$8,252 86
School Incidentals.....	795 16
Highways and Bridges.....	2,964 58
Support of Poor.....	3,854 60
Support of Poor, on acct. Cities and Towns	422 85
State Aid.....	1,297 00
Interest on Town Debt.....	2,049 65
<hr/>	
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$19,636 70

<i>Amount brought forward.</i>	\$19,636 70
Reduction of Town Debt.....	11,135 00
Salaries of Town Officers.....	1,879 14
Fire Department.....	1,628 90
Street Lamps.....	442 14
Public Library.....	792 35
Abatement of Taxes.....	299 55
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	303 78
Printing.....	197 50
Town Office.....	172 58
Police.....	272 29
Night Watch.....	200 00
Cemetery.....	100 00
Soldiers' Graves.....	100 00
Old South Clock.....	50 00
Cisterns.....	317 05
Removing of Snow.....	204 10
Concrete Sidewalks.....	857 82
New Engine House.....	7,898 25
Steam Fire Engine.....	4,854 97
Bridge, Mineral Street.....	1,988 27
Engine Hose.....	625 00
Investigation of Water Supply.....	333 65
Improvement of Common.....	356 13
Walnut Street School-house	779 00
Safe for Town Office.....	260 00
Crosswalk from Pleasant Street....	132 19
Sidewalk from Center Ave. to Main Street.	119 33
Almshouse Repairs.....	205 22
Arching Green Street Well.....	200 00
Wagon for Almshouse.....	106 50
Johnson Pumps.....	60 00
Erecting Street Lights	7 90
Amount of orders drawn.....	\$56,515 31
Balance of appropriations unexpended.. .	1,715 14
	<hr/> \$58,230 45

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen would respectfully present the foregoing report of the expenditures for the last financial year—those that belong especially to their department being in detail. It will be apparent, by an examination of the disbursements, that the town laid an unusual burden upon their Selectmen the last year. In addition to their usual duties, they have had a supervision of the highways and bridges, the construction of a bridge over the railroad at Highland Station, and, with the Chief Engineer, the erection of a new engine house. All this work has been completed within the appropriations voted by the town.

The accommodations for the Steamer and Hook and Ladder Companies give general satisfaction. The Selectmen have occupied their rooms in the second story since February 1st, and find them quite convenient and suitable for their purpose. The important papers belonging to the town are now protected in the fire-proof vault, constructed for that purpose, with ample space for the accumulations of many years to come. The lock-up, in the basement, has been furnished with the necessary furniture, and a small stove for warming the cells in very cold weather, or if the condition of any one confined there should require it.

The improvement of the common, with the money at our disposal, presented a somewhat difficult problem. We agreed that it would be unwise to attempt to spread the appropriation, so to speak, over the whole of the common. The work was mostly done on that part lying easterly of Main street, with the intention of making the improvement of as permanent a nature as possible. We hope what has been done will meet with the approval of the town, and that another portion of the common may soon be redeemed from its present unsightly condition.

A substantial bridge has been constructed across the railroad, connecting Mineral street, at a very reasonable cost to the town. While it is not so satisfactory, in all respects, as a more expensive one would have been, it can be readily improved by grading up the approaches at any time the town sees fit to do so, without the loss of any of the work already done.

By a vote of the town, the claim of Gilman D. Kingman, for damages, was referred to the Selectmen for settlement. We have been unable to agree with Mr. Kingman, and he has petitioned to have the damages assessed by a jury.

In the matter of the claim against the city of Malden, for supplies furnished Sarah L. Penney, suit has been commenced to recover the same, and is now pending.

We would present the following list of appropriations for your consideration :

For support of poor.....	\$3,000 00
Salaries of town officers.....	2,000 00
Military aid.....	1,500 00
Street lights	800 00
Printing.....	250 00
Abatement of taxes.....	300 00
Town office.....	100 00
Miscellaneous expenses.....	350 00
Highways and bridges.....	3,000 00
Removing snow.....	400 00

LEWIS M. BANCROFT,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
JAMES A. BANCROFT,	
CHAS. H. NOWELL,	

} *of*
} *Reading.*

READING, *March 24, 1884.*

COLLECTOR OF TAXES.

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN OF READING.

DR.

To uncollected taxes of 1880	\$262 22	
“ “ “ 1881	2,157 64	
“ “ “ 1882	8,778 74	
“ interest from “ 1880	31 32	
“ “ “ “ 1881	188 00	
“ “ “ “ 1882	230 84	
“ committed tax list of 1883.....	34,614 37	
“ additional assessment.....	144 95	
“ interest from taxes of 1883.....	67 84	
		—————\$46,475 92

CR.

By cash paid E. F. Parker, Treas. on 1880 taxes	\$262 22	
“ “ “ “ 1881 “ .	2,157 64	
“ “ “ “ 1882 “ .	6,519 92	
“ “ “ “ 1883 “ .	25,643 70	
“ “ “ interest on 1880 “ .	31 32	
“ “ “ “ 1881 “ .	188 00	
“ “ “ “ 1882 “ .	230 84	
“ “ “ “ 1883 “ .	67 84	
“ “ Amos Stone, County Treasurer...	1,224 86	
“ balance uncollected on 1882.....	2,258 82	
“ “ “ 1883.....	7,890 76	
		—————\$46,475 92

R. DEXTER TEMPLE, *Collector.*

READING, March 15, 1884.

Dr. Edward F. Parker, Treasurer, in

To balance in Treasury, March, 1883.	\$11,395 48
City of Boston for support of L. R. Lloyd.....	80 75
R. Dexter Temple, Auctioneer's license.....	2 00
town of Orange for support of Emma Merrill.....	7 75
Lewis M. Bancroft from sale of school house lot....	200 00
New England Trust Co., interest on deposits.....	177 10
Thomas P. Eames, for tuition of Lulu Eames.....	19 00
Ira W. Ruggles, license for billiard tables.....	2 00
James Dewhurst, " " " "	2 00
Thomas J. Mayall, for extra work moving School House.....	75 00
Overseers of the Poor, for shingles sold.....	24 87
town of Lynnfield, for support of E. L. Hewes.....	138 00
Henry McElwin, discount on bill for blackboards...	4 00
State Treasurer, corporation tax	\$679 15
" " National Bank tax	425 89
" " state aid.....	1,156 98
" " relief of indigent sailors and soldiers	190 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,452 02
City of Boston, support of Bridget Galvin	43 56
City of Malden, medical services for Sarah L. Penney.....	1 25
school committee, for books sold.....	3 12
Selectmen, sidewalk account.....	379 60
Boston & Maine R. R., on account of Mineral Street Bridge.....	498 94
Overseers of the Poor, military aid of Charles Jenkins.....	144 00
Blackstone Bank, interest on deposits.....	53 25
County Treasurer, for dog license	204 86
Wm. L. Jones, for loan sold from highway.....	35 25
hired money.....	8,800 00
school committee, from school fund	225 90
Overseers of the Poor, almshouse account.....	616 07
R. Dexter Temple collector, list of 1880.....	293 54
" " " " 1881.....	2,345 64
" " " " 1882.....	6,750 76
" " " " 1883.....	25,711 54
	<hr/>
	35,101 48
	<hr/>
	\$60,687 25

ACCOUNT OF

Balance, March, 1883	\$128 27
Received of State Treasurer.....	204 35
	<hr/>
	\$332 62

READING, March 1, 1884.

account with the Town of Reading, Cr.

By paying State tax	\$2,055 00
“ Corporation tax (adjustment)	7 25
“ Selectmen's orders	56,515 31
Cash in treasury	2,109 69

\$60,687 25

SCHOOL FUND.

Expended for books and apparatus	\$73 04
“ “ tuition	152 86
Amount unexpended	106 72

\$332 62

EDWARD F. PARKER, *Treasurer.*

AUDITORS' REPORT.

FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1884.

LIABILITIES.

Town notes, March 1st, 1883.....	\$46,900 00	
Town notes, March 1st, 1884.....	44,565 00	\$44,565 00
Decrease for the year	\$2,335 00	

In addition, a note for \$8,000 at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest, having two and a half years to run, has been replaced by another for the same amount, running ten years, at 4 per cent. interest—making a saving of interest of \$300.

Interest accrued on town notes.....	\$542 30	
Due Fire Department, estimated.....	1,000 00	
Miscellaneous debts	250 00	
		<u>1,792 30</u>
		\$46,357 30

AVAILABLE ASSETS.

Unpaid taxes of 1882.....	\$2,258 82	
“ “ “ 1883.....	7,890 76	
Interest accrued on unpaid taxes	389 26	
Due from city of Boston.....	72 88	
“ “ “ “ Malden.....	76 75	
“ “ “ “ Cambridge	53 00	
“ “ town of Lynnfield	135 72	
“ “ “ “ Stoneham.....	22 26	
“ “ “ “ Wakefield	8 75	
“ “ State Aid account	993 00	
“ “ State Military Aid.....	300 00	
Unexpended balance of School Fund.....	106 72	
Cash in treasury.....	2,109 69	
		<u>\$14,417 61</u>
Net debt March 1st, 1884		\$31,939 69

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY.

Town farm and buildings.....	\$4,600 00	
Personal property at town farm	1,961 18	
	<hr/>	\$6,561 18
Cemetery land and lots	\$2,200 00	
Hearse	100 00	
House	50 00	
	<hr/>	2,350 00
Steamer and hose carriage.....	\$3,900 00	
Harnesses.....	250 00	
Eagle engine and hose carriage.....	500 00	
Eagle engine house	200 00	
Hancock engine and hose carriage.....	450 00	
Hancock engine house	1,200 00	
Hooks and ladders, carriage, etc.....	300 00	
Hose and furniture	1,750 00	
	<hr/>	8,550 00
Also, for the use of the fire department, 15 cisterns, average cost about \$275 each.		
School-houses and furniture, and land.....	\$28,000 00	
Piano and apparatus in High School	500 00	
Public Library.....	3,500 00	
Land corner of Pleasant and Parker streets..	2,500 00	
New engine house and town offices.....	7,500 00	
Property in town office.....	500 00	
	<hr/>	42,500 00
		<hr/>
		\$59,961 18

The accounts of the Selectmen, Treasurer, and Collector have been examined and found correct. The balance of cash on hand, \$2,109.69, as stated by your Treasurer, is correct.

Of the notes of the town, one of \$165 bears 6 per cent. interest, one of \$100 5 per cent., one of \$500 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the rest 4 per cent. interest.

EDWARD APPLETON, }
 GILMAN L. PARKER, } *Auditors.*
 FRANK W. B. PRATT, }

Highways and Bridges.

Appropriation for highways and bridges....	\$3,000	00	
Received of different persons.....	35	25	
			\$3,035 25
Wm. L. Jones, for labor.....	549	25	
O. T. Pendergrace, “	48	60	
J. D. Jones, “	93	60	
J. A. Eames, “	69	50	
O. N. Jones, “	125	13	
J. N. Weston, “	71	70	
P. Burns, “	53	73	
E. Gaffney, “	45	30	
D. Damon, “	21	75	
E. Mears, “	7	20	
D. S. Brown, “	38	70	
T. Riordan, “	74	77	
H. Litchfield, “	136	88	
P. Doucette, “	34	05	
J. Meuse, “	40	80	
S. Morris, “	37	80	
E. Smith, “	166	50	
W. E. Moulton, “	100	85	
W. E. Moulton, stone.....	4	00	
F. Tuzon, for labor.....	60	72	
H. Staples, “	23	27	
P. Frooton, “	25	95	
E. P. Eames, “	98	60	
J. Stokes, “	18	60	
S. S. Dulong, “	9	00	
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$1,956	25	

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$1,956 25
J. Doucette, labor	15 00
H. Batchelder, "	12 00
E. Meuse, "	9 00
A. J. Bancroft, labor and stock	7 84
A. Porter, for "	4 50
G. W. Walker, "	47 08
E. Dillon, "	43 50
C. Merrill, "	42 00
W. H. Trueworthy "	9 00
D. P. Babb, "	24 00
C. Ballard, "	30 30
W. Frost, "	32 70
C. Barbrick, "	10 50
Atton W. Emerson, "	12 75
Wendell Bancroft, "	34 50
C. J. Nichols, "	24 75
H. G. Nichols, "	25 50
H. G. Nichols, for gravel	12 90
A. Abbott, for labor	10 50
J. E. Wilkins, for labor	13 50
J. E. Wilkins, for blasting stone	3 50
J. D. Canley, for labor	9 00
Asa Parker, for labor	52 50
Asa Parker, for gravel	13 30
R. M. Boyce, for labor	25 50
J. Sullivan, "	18 00
S. M. Bancroft, for gravel	60 00
G. A. Jones, for labor	28 50
W. A. Emerson, "	31 50
A. F. Emerson, "	42 30
A. G. Emerson, "	48 00
A. G. Carter, "	12 00
J. H. Gleason, for gravel	11 20
R. D. Temple, "	3 00
J. Porter, for labor	4 50

Amount carried forward, \$2,740 87

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$2,740 87	
G. W. Atkinson, for gravel.....	18 00	
A. Damon 2d, for labor	25 50	
C. Wakefield, for gravel	11 52	
R. C. Cotten, for sharpening tools, etc.....	3 70	
G. Thayer, for labor.....	9 00	
D. Pratt, for labor.....	3 75	
D. Pratt, for gravel.....	6 48	
Jonathan Moulton, for labor.....	6 00	
J. E. Dulin, for labor	7 50	
D. C. Sanborn, for gravel.....	1 98	
E. K. Manning, for labor.....	6 75	
M. Forbes, for labor	20 00	
Geo. Beasley, "	53 70	
T. F. Gould, for sharpening tools, etc	55 00	
O. A. Swain, for labor.....	2 40	
A. J. Varney, "	1 50	
A. B. Day, "	2 25	
G. A. Stratton, "	2 25	
C. A. Weston, "	8 00	
Galen A. Parker, for gravel.....	5 00	
M. Bancroft, for stone.....	1 25	
Parker & Stone, for nails and spikes.....	3 50	
Milton D. Parker, for gravel	1 80	
A. J. Morey, for milling.....	1 00	
J. H. Gleason, for gravel.....	1 40	
C. S. Lombard, "	4 98	
Albert Nichols, "	13 20	
	<hr/>	
	3,018 28	
Unexpended.....	16 97	
	<hr/>	
		3,035 25

Report of the Board of Engineers.

TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF READING :

During the past year our department has responded to the following alarms :

April 12th, 1883, alarm caused by the partial burning of a house, owned by J. Fullerton and occupied by T. T. Briggs, corner of Pleasant and John streets. Loss, \$767. Insured for \$3,000. Origin of fire unknown.

June 18th, 1883, Weston's Block on Haven street and a cottage on Chute street were totally destroyed by fire. The buildings were owned by the Reading Savings Bank, and their loss on buildings is estimated at \$4,500 ; insured for \$3,700. Seth Bessey's loss on meat market and household goods estimated at \$3,500 ; insured for \$2,150. M. A. Stone's loss on grocery stock estimated at \$2,300 ; insured for \$2,000. W. H. Twombly's loss on printing office estimated at \$3,500 ; insured for \$3,050. At the same fire J. B. Weston's house was damaged to the amount of \$350 ; insured for \$1,400. Cause of fire thought to be incendiary.

Sept. 4th, 1883. In response to a request from the Fire Wards of North Reading, a portion of our department repaired to that place, and aided in subduing an extensive fire in the woods, which was burning over a large area of woodland ; and, although the engine was useless, on account of the lack of water, the department succeeded, with the aid of the Johnson pumps, in saving a large amount of cordwood, part of which belonged to citizens of Reading. As a token of their appreciation, the citizens of North Reading presented our firemen with the sum of \$25, which was divided among the men.

Sept. 6th, 1883. an alarm called the department to a fire in the swamp between Reading and Wakefield. No damage.

Nov. 28th, 1883. An alarm, caused by the burning of a dwelling owned by Noble Bunker, near Pearl street. Owing to the lack of

water, the building was totally destroyed. Loss estimated at \$200; insured for \$500; amount paid \$250. Cause of fire thought to be incendiary.

Dec. 16th, 1883, a slight fire called the department to the house owned by Frederick Miller, on the corner of Spring and Orange sts. Damage nominal. Origin of fire, accidental.

Jan. 22d, 1884, the house of E. C. Nichols, on Main street, was partially destroyed by fire. Loss estimated at \$1,800; insurance on house, millinery stock, and household goods, \$3,600. Had the department been less prompt, or the steamer been less efficient, the town would have suffered a great loss from this fire.

Total number of alarms, 7; total loss, \$16,917; total amount of insurance, \$19,468; amount of insurance paid, \$13,785.

During the past year additional apparatus has been added to the department—consisting of one third-size Button steam fire engine, one horse hose carriage, 1050 feet of cotton rubber-lined steamer hose, and twelve Johnson pumps. With these additions, in connection with the Eagle and Hancock engines, and the Hook and Ladder truck, we feel that the town has a department that can successfully cope with and prevent any extensive fire that is likely to occur at present, provided an additional supply of water is furnished. This one great essential is lacking to make the department a success, as the steamer has a pumping capacity of 500 gallons of water per minute, and, although we have 24 wells and cisterns in town for fire purposes, and only two out of that number could furnish a sufficient supply of water for the steamer much over one hours' time; therefore, if the town does not soon intend to introduce water for domestic and fire purposes, the voters will at once see the necessity for a better supply of water for fire purposes. The well at the corner of Green and Elliot streets has been sunk to the depth of sixteen and one-half feet, and is fifteen feet in diameter, and at the present time contains fourteen feet of water; but we are sorry to announce that, owing to the quicksand and caving of the sides, we were obliged to overrun the appropriation. The cistern on the corner of Pearl and Charles streets has been completed and is fifteen feet deep by fifteen feet in diameter, and is full of water.

We would report that we have about 3,000 feet of hose, of which 2,000 feet is old leather hose, and has been in service eleven years,

and although it may be used by hand-engines a year or more, it is not reliable. The steamer is capable of doing effective fire service through more than 2,000 feet of hose, yet we have but 1050 that will stand the pressure from the steamer. Consequently, we feel it our duty to call the attention of the citizens to these facts, for their consideration and action.

Complaints have been made to us that, on several occasions, after a fire is under control, persons will enter a building and needlessly destroy property, by taking out windows, doors, blinds, mantle-pieces, and needlessly damaging goods by removal; and it has been suggested that a sort of a volunteer protective brigade be formed, to act in conjunction with the engineers, to protect property from needless damage.

The expenses of the department during the year were as follows :

Paid Henry Orr, services as steward to Hook and Ladder Company.....	\$5 00
William L. Crowe, services as engineer to May 1, 1883.....	12 00
C. K. Gleason, services as steward to May 1, 1883.....	60 00
George H. Parker, services as engineer to May 1, 1883	17 00
A. S. Richardson, services as steward to May 1, 1883.....	49 00
Chas. H. Lang, services as chief engineer to Feb. 1, 1883.....	18 75
Wm. L. Crowe, oiling hose.....	8 00
D. P. Babb, watching fire and drawing coal.....	3 00
Howard Patent Brush Co., repairs on Eagle engine	4 50
Members of Fire Department, services to May 1, 1883	1,020 17
W. H. Turner, oil for hose	10 00
W. Bancroft, covering wells and repairs	19 48
E. C. Nichols, services as engineer and labor	15 00
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	<u>\$1,241 90</u>

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$1,241 90
H. M. Sawyer, oil suits for firemen	66 00
W. Bancroft, services as engineer to May 1, 1883.....	12 00
P. McCall, straps and belts.....	12 00
F. B. Cummings. services as steward ..	22 50
A. S. Richardson, labor on Hancock engine	8 20
John S. Judkins, watching fire, Haven street.....	2 00
Hunneman & Co., repairing hose.....	18 00
Samuel Brown, ladder and repairing ladders	10 05
Howard Patent Metallic Brush Co., labor and waste.....	3 80
H. A. Trull, labor on steamer.....	17 65
C. H. Stinchfield, labor od steamer	17 05
Parker & Stone, sundries.....	43 89
R. C. Totten, repairs on Eagle engine..	3 00
E. B. Eames, drawing engines to fire...	10 00
M. E. Nichols, setting glass	1 84
Albert J. Bancroft, services as steward to Eagle Engine Co.	3 00
Albert J. Bancroft, lumber and labor ..	8 63
Everett Parker, labor.....	1 25
Wm. M. Titus, stovepipe and labor....	8 38
American Fire Hose Mfg. Co., washers	1 62
H. A. Trull, valves and waste	1 99
George E. Manning, drawing Hook and Ladder to fire.....	3 00
Wm. E. Moulton, filling cistern and re- sponding to alarm of fire	17 00
Wm. LaClair, removing snow from cistern.....	1 00
Wendell Bancroft, coal	36 37
Wm. L. Crow, removing snow from cisterns	12 92
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	<hr/> \$1,585 04

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$1,585 04	
J. C. Gleason, coal.....	3 50	
Geo. E. Lang, express on hose.....	5 30	
T. Littlefield, labor on stovepipes	2 00	
M. A. Stone, sundries	46	
Cummings' Express	4 05	
G. W. Atkinson, sundries	3 90	
Henry Stock, watching fire	2 00	
Albert James, removing snow from cisterns	1 00	
Garfield & Co., painting	17 40	
John A. Blunt, repairs on Eagle engine	4 25	
	<hr/>	\$1,628 90
Appropriation	1,700 00	
	<hr/>	
Unexpended.....		\$71 10

We would recommend the following appropriations for the ensuing year :

For paying Eagle Engine Co., 40 men.....	\$480 00
Steward do.....	48 00
Incidentals, do.....	100 00
Hancock Engine Co., 40 men	480 00
Steward do.....	48 00
Incidentals do.....	100 00
Hook & Ladder Co., 16 men.....	182 00
Incidentals do.....	60 00
Steamer Company, 13 men	156 00
Engineer and fireman, do., 2 men..	192 00
Coal for steamer	90 00
Horses for do.....	100 00
Incidentals for do.....	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,136 00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE H. PARKER, *Chief Engineer.*

E. C. NICHOLS,

WM. L. CROWE,

WENDELL BANCROFT, }

} *Assistants.*

WENDELL BANCROFT, *Clerk.*

READING, *March 14th, 1884.*

REPORT OF THE POLICE.

TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF READING:—

The Police respectfully submit the following report for the year ending March 1, 1884. The force met according to appointment on the 2d of May, 1883, and organized with L. W. Erskine as Chief and J. C. Cook, Clerk.

The Police in entering upon the duties of the year had the sole purpose of seeing that the laws were impartially executed and in this they had the support and cooperation of the Selectmen.

The arrangement of having some member of the force on duty every evening, at places where people are accustomed to congregate, has been continued, and annoyance from that source has been much less.

In the early part of the year Chester C. Richardson resigned and the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Frank E. Brooks, who subsequently resigned, and the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Wm. L. Jones. There has been a lockup built during the year in the basement of the new engine-house on Pleasant street with convenient cells adapted for the purposes required. The officers have been provided with suitable badges, handcuffs, and other implements such as are required to make them effective. The whole number of arrests during the year (28) :

For cruelty to animals.....	1
“ Insanity.....	1
“ Committing nuisance.....	1
“ Night walking.....	1
“ Drunkenness and assault.....	2
“ Disturbing the peace.....	2
“ Violation of town by-laws.....	3

For larceny	4
“ Assault	5
“ Drunkenness.....	8

Three liquor seizures have been made. In two of the cases the parties were found guilty. In the third case, failed to convict. One party was complained of and convicted for keeping a billiard and pool table without a license.

We would recommend that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred dollars for Police services to be expended under the direction of the Selectmen.

All of which we respectfully submit

L. W. ERSKINE, <i>Chief</i> ,	} Police.
EDWIN BASSETT,	
WM. L. JONES,	
EDWARD B. EAMES,	
J. C. COOK, <i>Clerk</i> .	

READING, March 5. 1884.

Report of Cemetery Committee.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Amount in the hands of the committee March 1st, 1883....	\$92 76
Drawn from town appropriation.....	100 00
Received from the sale of lots.....	163 00
	<hr/>
	\$355 76

Expended in the care of the grounds :—

For labor	\$280 11	
For gravel, &c.....	6 00	
	<hr/>	286 11

Balance on hand	\$69 65
-----------------------	---------

F. O. DEWEY, G. C. GLEASON, W. J. WIGHTMAN, JAMES A. BANCROFT, F. W. B. PRATT, S. BANCROFT,	} Committee.
--	--------------

READING, *March, 1884.*

LIBRARY REPORT.

The Trustees of the Public Library respectfully submit the following report:—

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Expenses of 1882 (previously unreported) :

Dog tax, 1882, appropriated but not drawn.....	\$187 49
Paid Librarian, for salary	\$134 00
Outstanding bills for books	53 49
	<hr/> \$187 49

The foregoing items of the transactions of last year were not reported in our last annual report, as, owing to the sudden death of the former Secretary of the Board, it was found impossible to close the accounts until after the expiration of the last financial year. They are therefore reported here.

Expenses of 1883 :

Appropriation, 1883	\$400 00
Dog tax, 1883	204 86
	<hr/> \$604 86
Paid Librarian, for salary	\$132 75
rent of room	125 00
re-binding books.....	35 60
insurance policy	18 75
books for circulation	290 36
expressage on books	2 40
	<hr/> \$604 86

Account of fines, etc. :

Received for fines, 1882	\$40 00
for fines, 1883.....	38 85
for cards	6 20
for catalogues	3 75
for waste paper sold.....	55
	<hr/> \$89 35

Paid for printing.....	\$2 75	
for incidentals.....	1 95	
		<hr/>
		\$4 70
Balance.....		<hr/>
		\$84 65

STATISTICS.

Number of volumes bought during year.....	239
Number contributed	11
Total number added	250
Total number in the library.....	4,995
Circulation for the year	15,661

The trustees organized at the beginning of the year by the re-election of Stephen Foster, President, and the choice of H. G. Wadlin, Secretary.

The names of the books added during the year are appended to this report. Besides the number reported as added (250 volumes), a considerable number were purchased to replace volumes already on our catalogue, which had been worn out in circulation. The names of these, having already been published, do not appear here.

The interest in the library continues unabated. To promote its usefulness and to increase its efficiency as an educational institution, there is urgent need of better rooms. Increased shelf-room is imperatively required. A new catalogue should be prepared, which would serve as a guide to those who wish to pursue particular courses of reading, and thus bring into circulation the better class of books which now remain unused upon our shelves, for the reason that it is not known what the library contains. A mere list of names is of little value, compared with a catalogue which gives some idea of the contents of the books, as well as their titles. A better system of book-delivery ought at once to be adopted, so that patrons may be more quickly provided with the books they desire, and not be compelled to wait their turn in a long line of applicants, only to find, when they at last reach the librarian's desk, that the book they wanted was taken out early in the evening.

The need of the reforms we have mentioned has for some time been recognized by the trustees, but the work has been delayed in

the hope that a permanent and convenient room might be secured for the library through the action of the town. Properly to accomplish what we have in view requires the shelves and cases to be numbered, and the books classified, and as this involves a great deal of thought and labor, much of which might be wasted if the library were to be removed after it had been undertaken, it was not deemed best to attempt anything in this direction while a change of location was being discussed. The present room, as has been pointed out in previous reports, is entirely inadequate to the purposes of a library, being low, poorly ventilated, and of an inconvenient shape. As the question of a town building, to contain the library, has now been decided, we desire to bring before the town another plan for meeting our needs.

The room in the Bank Building formerly occupied by the Selectmen, and the small room on the same floor formerly used by the Savings Bank, can be had under lease on favorable terms, and would afford us proper accommodations. The expense for rent would be somewhat increased, but we should be able to make the library more useful to our citizens, and thus derive a better return for the investment the town has made in its establishment. The library ought to be made of the greatest possible use to all, its importance as an educational factor supplementary to the public schools ought to be recognized, and nothing should be left undone fully to develop its resources. To these ends we recommend to the favorable consideration of the town the proposition to remove its location to the Bank Building, as the first step in a series of improvements which the trustees contemplate. These improvements, except the increased expense for rent before mentioned, would not add to the annual cost of the library, but would greatly enhance its usefulness.

The terms of Messrs. Griggs and Barrows expire, leaving two vacancies to be filled at the ensuing meeting of the town.

STEPHEN FOSTER, *Chairman.*
 HORACE G. WADLIN, *Sec'y.*
 JAMES H. GRIGGS,
 CYRUS M. BARROWS,
 HARLEY PRENTISS,
 CHARLES D. THOMAS,

READING, March 15, 1884.

Trustees.

LIST OF BOOKS ADDED TO THE LIBRARY SINCE MARCH, 1883.

TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE.

Due West.
 The Golden Chersonese.
 From Ponkapog to Pesth.
 Cruise of the Canoe Club.
 Three Vassar Girls in England.
 The Knockabout Club in the Tropics.
 Zig-Zag Journeys in Northern Lands.
 Morocco: its People and Places.
 Boating Trips on New England rivers.
 Round About Rio.
 Two years Aft the Mast.
 Man o' War Life.
 Orient Sunbeams.
 Holland and its People.
 A Flight into Mexico.
 Angola and the river Congo.
 Camping among Cannibals.
 Woods and Lakes of Maine.
 Studies of Paris.
 Old Mexico and her Lost Provinces.

FICTION AND JUVENILES.

The Ladies Lindores.
 Hester.
 A Beleaguered City.
 A Little Pilgrim in the Unseen.
 Old Lady Mary.
 The Modern Hagar.
 Inez.
 The Gentle Savage.
 The Led-Horse Claim.
 For the Major.
 Whom Kathie Married.
 A Daughter of the Philistines,
 Lost in a Great City.
 The Admiral's Ward.
 Nantucket Scraps. (Sketches of Nantucket.)
 A Fashionable Sufferer.
 Robin and his Merry Men.
 Through one Administration.
 But yet a Woman.
 Among the Pines.
 Thicker than Water.
 Beyond the Gates.
 Mr. Isaacs.
 Banned and Blessed.
 Jack and Jill.

A Woman of Honor.
 Fore and Aft.
 A Great Treason.
 A Sea Queen.
 The Little Duke.
 Queenie Hetherton.
 A Woman's Reason.
 His Triumph.
 His Sombre Rivals.
 Lorna Doone.
 A Righteous Apostate.
 The Boys of the Sierras.
 Dust.
 Fortune's Fool.
 Boys of other Countries.
 The Hoosier School-Boy.
 Two Years at Hillsboro'.
 Recollections of a Drummer Boy.
 The White Chief.
 The Scalp Hunters.
 Phil and His Friends.
 The Train Boy.
 A York and Lancaster Rose.
 Stories from Livy.
 Stories from the Greek Tragedians.
 Stories from Herodotus.
 Shandon Bells.
 The Four McNicols.
 Yolande.
 Theodolph, the Iclander.
 Lives in Pleasant Places.
 Altha.
 The Georgians.
 Rosemary and Rue.
 Fanchette.
 A Lesson in Love.
 Damen's Ghost.
 Homoselle.
 Madame Lucas.
 The Desmond Hundred.
 A Nameless Nobleman.
 Doctor Ben.
 His Second Campaign.
 Diane Coryval.
 Will Denbigh.
 The Wolf at the Door.
 Is That All?
 Marmorne.
 The Great Match.
 Mirage.

Hetty's Strange History.
 A Modern Mephistopheles.
 A Castle in Spain.
 The Miz-Maze.
 A Wronged Wife.
 Carried by Storm.
 A Terrible Secret.
 One Night's Mystery.
 A Wonderful Woman.
 From Madge to Margaret.
 The Law and the Lady.
 Poor Miss Finch.
 The Dead Secret.
 Page, Squire and Knight.
 The Treasure Island.
 The Silverado Squatters.
 Donald and Dorothy.
 Our Christmas in a Palace.
 Newport.
 A Newport Aquarelle.
 Chateau d'Or.
 The Colonel's Daughter.
 The Mate of the Daylight.
 Judith, a Chronicle of Old Virginia.
 Louisiana.
 "Pansy" Stories:—Four Volumes:
 Those Boys.
 The Household Puzzle.
 The Randolphs.
 Modern Prophets.
 Floyd Grandon's Honor.
 An Ambitious Woman.
 By Uphill Paths.
 True Tales for my Grandsons.
 The Story of Merv.
 Beatrix Randolph.
 Marplot Cupid.
 Stephen, M. D.
 Fighting the Good Fight.
 Felicitas.
 Her Washington Season.
 The Bread Winners.
 A Latter Day Saint.
 Vagabondia.
 The Queen's Body Guard.
 Bonnybell Vane.
 Guenn.
 Old Mark Langston.
 The Boys of '35.
 Some Other Folks.
 Silas Marner.
 Story of a Flower.
 Carry's Confession.
 The Siege of London, etc. (Henry James.)

HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.

Twelve Americans: Their Lives and Times.
 Records of a Later Life.
 Paoli: Its Centennial Anniversary.
 English Men of Letters (Condensed Biographies of) 21 Volumes, comprising:
 Southey.
 Landor.
 Locke.
 Chaucer.
 Swift.
 Sterne.
 Fielding.
 Dickens.
 Addison.
 Gray.
 Cowper.
 Byron.
 Bunyan.
 Macaulay.
 Wordsworth.
 Pope.
 Milton.
 Burke.
 DeQuincey.
 Bentley.
 Dryden.
 History of the Civil War in America (By the Compté de Paris. 3 Vol.)
 Life and Times of John Bright.
 Autobiography of Benj. Franklin. (3 Volumes.)
 The Old Regime in Canada.
 The Oregon Trail.
 France and England in North America.
 Autobiography of Anthony Trollope.
 Creators of the Age of Steel.
 Mosaics of Grecian History.
 Biography of Oliver Wendell Holmes.
 The Pharaohs and their People.
 English Poetesses. (Robertson.)
 Victorian Poets. (Stedman.)
 American Statesmen. (Brief Biographies of.) Six Volumes, comprising,
 Webster.
 Monroe.
 Jefferson.
 Gallatin.
 Randolph.
 Jackson.

American Men of Letters. (Brief Biographies of.) 3 Volumes, comprising:

George Ripley,
Cooper.
Thoreau.

John Adams and his Wife. (Familiar Letters of.)

R. W. Emerson. (Life, Writings and Philosophy of.)

George Eliot. (Life, Writings and Philosophy of.)

Goethe. (Study of the Life of.)

History of the American People. (Gilman.)

Virginia, History of the People.

Oregon, the Struggle for Possession.

Washington. (Young Folks' Biography of.)

History of the War with Mexico.
Life of Nelson.

Reign of Queen Anne. (Social Life of.)
Conquest of England. (Greene.)

The Hessians in the Revolution.

Twelve Decisive Battles of the World.

The Great Tone Poets.

The Civil War, (Young Folks' History of).

The Book of Worthies. (Yonge).

The Civil War. (Anecdotes of, by Townsend.)

Edgar A. Poe. (Life and Works in one volume.)

Legends and Folk Lore of N. E. (Drake.)

Life and Letters of Elizabeth Prentiss.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL.

Popular Scientific Recreations.

Report of the Director of the U. S. Mint.

Report of the Chief Signal Officer. (2 Volumes.)

Census of Massachusetts. (1880.)

Report of Com'r of Education of U. S.

The Poultry Book.

Easy Star Lessons. (Proctor.)

Dictionary of Noted Names of Fiction.

Electricity and its Uses.

Amateur Work.

Science Gleanings in Many Fields.

The Home and its Surroundings.

POETRY, ESSAYS AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The Odyssey of Homer. (Bryant's Translation.)

The Iliad of Homer. (Bryant's translation.)

The Works of Geoffrey Chancer. (Edited by Gilman.) 3 Vols.

The Divine Comedy. (Dante. Longfellow's translation.) 3 Vols.

Memorie and Rime. (Joaquin Miller.)

Farm Legends. (Will Carleton.)

Things New and Old. (Washington Gladden.)

The Oriental Christ. (Mazoomdar.)
Schools and Studies.

Heroes and Hero Worship. (Carlyle.)

American Girl's Home Book.

Recollections of a Naval Officer.

Whence, What, Where? (Man's Origin and Destiny.)

Star Papers.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF READING,

For the Year 1883-4.



REPORT.

The School Committee for the year ending March, 1884, respectfully submit the following report :—

According to the latest available statistics (Report of State Board of Education, January, 1884.) Reading ranks twenty-seventh among the cities and towns of the Commonwealth, and sixteenth among those of Middlesex county in respect to the amount of money appropriated for the education of each child between the ages of five and fifteen years. This shows the liberality of the town in its appropriation of money to its schools as compared with other cities and towns for the year 1882-3. But when Reading is compared with other towns in respect to the percentage of its valuation appropriated to the support of schools it will be seen that it occupies a very different place in the scale. For instance, in this regard, Reading stands one hundred and forty-fourth in the State, 143 towns ranking above and 202 below. In the county its rank is eighteenth, 17 towns being above and 36 below.

In respect to average attendance, Reading, by the same statistics, ranks fifty-first in the State and tenth in the county.

As regards the rank of Reading based on the percentage of its taxable property appropriated for school purposes, and comparative valuation is usually considered a fair measure of comparative ability, the present position of the town is considerably below its own average for the last twenty years, its average rank for that time being one hundred and nineteenth in the State. But, on the other hand, Reading at present appropriates a percentage of its valuation about equivalent to the average

percentage appropriated by the town for the same period of twenty years. It therefore follows that while our appropriations, as compared with our valuation, have not greatly changed, other towns have increased their appropriations so as to outrank us in the comparison. Bearing this in mind, we trust the town will not contemplate any reduction in the amount appropriated for its schools at the present time.

Concerning attendance we need only say, that while liberal appropriations are necessary for maintaining the schools a sufficient length of time during the year for the employment of competent teachers and the provision of proper apparatus and other essentials of school work, nothing contributes more to the success of a school than constant and prompt attendance on the part of each pupil. The record of our schools in this respect has always been an enviable one, and we desire particularly to call the attention of parents to the importance of doing everything in their power to reduce tardiness and absence of pupils to the minimum. It is of course improper to enforce attendance whenever regard for the health of the pupil requires his detention at home, but many pupils fall into careless habits, are not sufficiently impressed with the need of promptness, and are allowed by their parents to remain away from school upon frivolous excuses. The remedy is obvious and should be applied. With these general remarks we now proceed to a presentation of the work of the past year.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE.

Organization was perfected at the first regular meeting by the choice of Horace G. Wadlin, Chairman, and the re-election of Henry G. Kittredge, Secretary. The following Sub-Committees were appointed :—

High School—Messrs. Wadlin and Kittredge.

First Grammar—Mr. Kittredge.

Second Grammar—Mr. Putney.

Third Grammar—Mr. S. E. Parker.

Upper Medium—Mr. E. F. Parker.

Lower Medium—Mr. S. E. Parker.

Upper Primary—Mr. Putney.

Lower Primary—Mr. Wadlin.

Walnut Street Schools—Mr. Kittredge.

Woburn Street Schools—Mr. Bancroft.

Lowell Street School—Mr. E. F. Parker.

Main Street School—Mr. Bancroft.

Haverhill Street School—Mr. S. E. Parker.

On Prudential Affairs—Messrs. E. F. Parker and S. E. Parker.

On Accounts—Mr. E. F. Parker.

On Music—Mr. Putney.

TEACHERS.

Only three changes have been made in our teaching force during the past year. Miss Z. A. Wakefield resigned the position she had long held as teacher of the Haverhill street school, her successor being Miss Olena A. Wakefield of this town. Miss Clara J. Coney, of the Woburn street grammar school, resigned at the close of the summer term, her resignation being caused by her change of residence to Denver, Colorado, where she is now engaged in teaching. The vacancy was filled by the promotion of Miss Mattie Davis, whose efforts in the primary seemed indicative of success in the grammar department. The vacancy in the primary was filled

by the selection of Miss Mary E. Murkland, of Lynn, a normal graduate with some experience in teaching, who came to us highly recommended. Most of our teachers have been with us for several years and are generally to be commended for earnest efforts in behalf of their schools, and for faithful and painstaking service.

DISCIPLINE.

In accordance with the requirements of the statutes truant officers have been appointed by the Committee, whose duty it is to see that the laws relating to truancy and the employment of children are enforced. In but one case of truancy was it found necessary to take extreme measures, and in that instance the pupil was sent to the truant school in Lowell, where he is doing well, and under proper restraint is, we believe, acquiring such habits of order and self-control as will conduce to his well-in life. In one other instance a similar course would have been taken by the Committee had not the offender, through circumstances not necessary to explain here, passed under the guardianship of the State Board of Health, Lunacy and Charity, thus relieving the Committee from responsibility. With but few exceptions the discipline maintained in the schools has been good.

HIGH SCHOOL.

28 pupils entered this school in September, 18 having previously graduated. The present number of pupils is 73. We believe the record of Reading in respect to attendance at the High School to be unexcelled. There are no industrial establishments in town to compete with this school for those who leave the grammar classes, and therefore a large proportion of our pupils enter it, and of these, an unusually large percentage graduate. The attendance has undoubtedly been increased

by the policy of the Committee, which for many years has been to provide such courses of study as seemed best adapted to the majority of the pupils in our own town, rather than to conform to some ideal standard fixed under different local conditions. We believe that the support given the school, and the high estimate placed upon it by our people justifies this policy. If evidence were needed of the good work done in the school none better could be given than the success which has attended its graduates, many of whom are filling positions of trust and responsibility, and the uniformly high rank taken by those who have gone from its classes into the normal schools at Salem and Bridgewater. The principal of the latter has never failed to compliment the applicants for admission to his school who have come from Reading, and in his opinion they are always among those best prepared for entrance. Such results as this speak more effectively for the school than can any words of ours.

The present three years' course was adopted several years ago. It seems to the Committee that with the number of teachers at present employed something might be done for those pupils who desire to remain four years in the school. With this end in view a plan for another year's work is in contemplation, and will be perfected before the beginning of the next school year.

The names of the graduates may be found in the appendix.

MUSIC.

Instruction in music has continued during the year under the able direction of Mr. Henry G. Carey. Mr. Carey's methods have met the approbation of the Committee, and his work is, we believe, thoroughly appreciated and highly valued by the parents.

BUILDINGS.

In obedience to a vote of the town the Walnut street school building was removed during the summer vacation to a lot on

Hopkins street. By vote of the board the school will hereafter be designated "The Chestnut Hill School." The new site, while not above criticism, was in the locality approved by a majority of those residing in the district, and not far away from the old location. The slope of the lot to the west enabled a good cellar to be put under the building at moderate expense. When the surplus gravel is removed, which will be done as fast as it can be used upon the streets, and the grading is completed, its present unsightly appearance will be obviated, and we are confident that the choice of site will then be regretted by but few. The building itself was completely remodeled, two good first-story rooms being obtained, with proper entrances on each side. It was thus rendered much more convenient for the two schools which occupy it, and the primary department is no longer confined to a small and poorly ventilated attic. A full statement of the cost of this, and other routine repairs of the year is appended.

We desire pointedly to call the attention of the town to the condition of the rooms occupied by the Union street primary schools. They are, as is well known, small, poorly ventilated, and totally unfit for the use to which they are put. In their present state they are a disgrace to the town. The front room, especially, occupied by the lower primary, has no adequate clothes room for hanging the cloaks and hats of pupils, and consequently a portion of the school room wall is utilized for this purpose. On a wet day, when the room is heated, the steam arising from drying garments mingled with the impurities resulting from the crowded condition of the room, renders the air so bad as to be injurious to health.

The town ought to build at some time in the near future a four-room school building in the centre district, properly arranged, well lighted and ventilated, and such as other towns in this vicinity provide for their schools. The fact that the Union street building was built many years ago for other pur-

poses, interferes with its adaptation to the educational wants of the present. If, however, the town is not ready to erect a new building some other plan ought to be devised to improve the condition of things, and the best that we can suggest is to raise the John street school building, adding a story underneath to be occupied by the lower primary, and to devote the entire first story of the Union street building to the upper primary, changing the arrangement of rooms therein to conform to its needs. This would afford some relief and could be accomplished without great expense. The matter will come before the town at the ensuing meeting by an article in the warrant.

INSPECTION OF THE SCHOOLS.

During the winter term the High School was visited by Mr. George H. Martin, and all the schools inspected by Mr. John T. Prince, both acting as agents of the State Board of Education.

The work of the teachers was carefully observed, the schools examined and the character of the buildings noted, after which Mr. Prince met the teachers collectively and addressed them upon their work, and offered such criticisms and advice as seemed to be needed.

Early in the coming year it is proposed to secure the services of Mr. Charles M. Carter, of the State Normal Art School, who volunteers to give a series of practical talks to the teachers on methods of teaching drawing.

FREE TEXT-BOOKS.

An important change in the statutes relating to public schools has just been made. For several years by Section 40 of Chapter 48 of the public statutes a town by vote might authorize its school committee to purchase text-books and stationery for use in the public schools, such books to be the property of the town, and to be lent to pupils under such regulations as the school committee might make. What a town by this statute was *permitted* to do, it is now *required* to do by the provisions of the following act just passed :

SECTION 1. The school committee of every city and town shall purchase, at the expense of said city or town, text-books and other school supplies used in the public schools, and said text-books and supplies shall be loaned to the pupils of said public schools free of charge, subject to such rules and regulations as to care and custody as the school committee may prescribe.

SECT. 2. Pupils supplied with text-books at the time of the passage of this act shall not be supplied with similar books by the committee until needed.

SECT. 3. This act shall take effect upon the first day of August, 1884.

To conform to the requirements of this act will demand an appropriation of \$600 to be made by the town and included in the tax levy of the present year.

VACANCIES.

There will be two vacancies in the board to be filled by the town at the ensuing meeting, the terms of Messrs. Putney and Wadlin expiring.

APPROPRIATIONS.

We recommend the same amount to be appropriated for support of schools as was raised last year, viz. \$8,100. We also recommend the same amount as that of last year to be raised for incidentals, viz. \$700, together with the additional sum of \$600 for text-books, making the total appropriation for incidentals of \$1,300.

HORACE G. WADLIN,	} <i>School Committee of Reading.</i>
<i>Chairman,</i>	
HENRY G. KITTREDGE,	
<i>Secretary,</i>	
JAMES A. BANCROFT,	
STILLMAN E. PARKER,	
EDWARD F. PARKER,	
GEORGE E. PUTNEY,	

ADOPTED IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

March 14, 1884.

Table showing Salaries, Attendance, and Number of Visitors.

NAMES OF SCHOOLS.	No. of visitors.	TEACHERS NOW EMPLOYED.	SALARIES NOW PAID.	Average Mem ^{ship} .			Average Attend ^{nce} .			Pupils during yr over 15 years.	Pupils during yr under 5 years.
				1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.	1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.		
High School	70	{ E. P. Fitts, Principal..... Miss Mary L. Stinchfield, 1st Assistant... Miss Cora E. Adams, 2d Assistant..... Miss Jennie R. Barrows..... Miss Alice M. Barrows..... Miss A. M. Buswell..... Miss Ella F. Wakefield..... Mrs. Alice W. Emerson..... Mrs. Sarah A. Goodridge..... Miss Ruth L. Pratt..... Miss Sarah M. Pearson..... Miss Mary W. Howard..... Miss Martha F. Davis..... Miss Mary E. Murkland..... Miss Kate L. Beard..... Miss Annie P. Reid..... Miss Olena A. Wakefield.....	\$1,200 00 per year. 12 00 per week 9 00 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	64	76	76	62	75	73	45	
First Grammar.....	120	Miss Cora E. Adams, 2d Assistant.....	13 00	37	51	48	36	49	46	1	
Second Grammar.....	87	Miss Jennie R. Barrows.....	12 00	30	36	35	28	34	34	1	
Third Grammar.....	84	Miss Alice M. Barrows.....	10 00	34	33	33	33	32	31		
Upper Medium.....	85	Miss A. M. Buswell.....	10 00	35	37	35	32	34	33		
Lower Medium.....	89	Miss Ella F. Wakefield.....	10 00	31	28	28	29	26	24		
Union-st. Upper Primary....	124	Mrs. Alice W. Emerson.....	10 00	56	55	54	53	52	49		
Union-st. Lower Primary....	115	Mrs. Sarah A. Goodridge.....	10 00	59	48	46	49	42	36		
Chestnut Hill Grammar....	53	Miss Ruth L. Pratt.....	8 00	17	20	21	15	19	19	1	
Chestnut Hill Primary....	47	Miss Sarah M. Pearson.....	7 00	39	39	40	34	36	31		
Woburn-st. Grammar.....	60	Miss Mary W. Howard.....	10 00	34	39	29	33	28	27		
Woburn-st. Primary.....	50	Miss Martha F. Davis.....	8 00	32	39	41	27	29	29		
Lowell-st. Mixed.....	32	Miss Mary E. Murkland.....	9 00	35	41	39	31	35	34	2	
Main-st. Mixed.....	30	Miss Kate L. Beard.....	6 00	11	9	9	11	9	8		
Haverhill-st. Mixed.....	36	Miss Annie P. Reid.....	6 00	18	18	14	17	16	13	1	
	1,062			532	559	548	489	516	487	50	6

APPENDIX.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population of Reading	3,118
Number children between 5 and 15 years of age May, '83.	561
Number children between 8 and 14 years of age May, '83.	413
Amount appropriated for instruction, fuel, and care of rooms	\$8,100 00
Amount appropriated for incidentals.....	700 00
Amount drawn from State School Fund	225 90
Amount received from other sources	22 12
<hr/>	
Total receipts.....	9,048 02
Expended for instruction, fuel, and care of rooms	8,252 86
for incidentals.....	795 16
<hr/>	
Total expenditures	9,048 02

PUPILS.

Number of different pupils enrolled for the year	648
Average membership of all the schools	546
Average attendance in all the schools during the year	497
Percentage of attendance, based upon the average mem- bership	91
Number attending within the year between 8 and 14 years of age (compulsory school age)	364

Number of pupils admitted to the High School	28
Youngest pupil admitted, age 12 years, 7 months.	
Oldest pupil attendance, age 16 years.	
Average age of pupils admitted, 14 years. 2 mos.	

TEACHERS.

Number of male teachers employed.....	1
Number of female teachers employed.....	16
Average wages, per month, of female teachers	\$37 50
Number of teachers who have attended normal schools ...	8
Number of teachers who have graduated from normal schools.....	8

NAMES OF PUPILS GRADUATED FROM THE HIGH
SCHOOL, JUNE, 1883.

Mary A. Bancroft,	Helen E. Miller,
Mabel F. Brown,	M. Angie Pearson,
Emma M. Damon,	Lillia A. Sweetser,
Lulu L. Eames,	Josephine E. Stimpson,
Abbie J. Eames,	Mary R. Tabor,
Ellen M. Jackson,	Edward M. Harrington,
Mabel S. LeClair,	E. Clinton Holden,
Hattie B. Lewis,	H. Lindsey Prentiss,
Marion F. Lombard,	Melvin C. Skinner.

ROLL OF HONOR,

Giving the names of those who have been neither absent nor tardy since March, 1883, and the schools to which they belong :

HIGH SCHOOL.

Emma M. Damon,	Frank L. Norris,
Percy N. Carter,	Helen M. Parker,

*Annie P. Channel,
 †Nathaniel G. Hill,
 Annie M. Kingman.

*Hattie M. Richardson,
 Hattie M. Walker,
 George A. Walker.

FIRST GRAMMAR.

Alice Peabody,

Mary E. Vermill.

SECOND GRAMMAR.

*Minnie L. Jones,
 *Edith B. Parker.

Walter B. Nichols,

THIRD GRAMMAR.

Albin Parker.

UPPER MEDIUM.

Wilfred A. Bancroft.

UPPER PRIMARY.

†Susan C. Berry,

Alverde Parker.

CHESTNUT HILL GRAMMAR.

Delia Converse.

MAIN STREET.

Amy A. Nichols.

HAVERHILL STREET.

John J. Wakefield.

*Neither absent nor tardy for two years.

†Neither absent nor tardy for three years.

‡Neither absent nor tardy for four years.

||Neither absent nor tardy for seven years.

EXPENSES OF SCHOOLS.

INSTRUCTION.

Paid for teaching	High School.....	\$1,998 00	
	First Grammar.....	488 80	
	Second Grammar	456 00	
	Third Grammar.....	380 00	
	Upper Medium.....	370 00	
	Lower Medium	376 00	
	Upper Primary.....	380 00	
	Lower Primary.....	380 00	
	Walnut Street Primary....	216 00	
	Walnut Street Grammar....	288 00	
	Woburn Street Grammar....	404 00	
	Woburn Street Primary....	282 00	
	Lowell Street Mixed.....	342 00	
	Main Street Mixed.....	226 80	
	Haverhill Street Mixed....	228 00	
	Music Teacher.....	400 00	
		<hr/>	\$7,215 60

JANITORS.

Paid for care of Centre School buildings.....	\$304 00	
Woburn St. School buildings.	77 00	
Walnut St. School buildings..	49 00	
Lowell St. School buildings...	32 00	
Main St. School buildings....	28 50	
Haverhill St. School buildings	88 00	
	<hr/>	\$528 50
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>		<hr/> \$7,744 10

Amount brought forward,

\$7,744 10

FUEL.

Paid J. C. Gleason, for coal.....	\$87 75	
Wendal Bancroft, for coal.....	320 12	
Edward F. Parker, for wood	83 26	
Labor on fuel... ..	17 63	
	<hr/>	508 76
Total amount expended.....		\$8,252 86

Receipts:—

Appropriation	\$8,100 00	
Drawn from school fund.....	152 86	
	<hr/>	8,252 86

INCIDENTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES.

Paid Walter S. Parker, for horse hire.....	1 50	
N. W. Broad, for labor and materials for repairs	29 67	
S. G. Fales, for globe for high school....	10 00	
H. G. Kittredge, for postage stamps and supplies.....	13 12	
Citizens Gas Light Co., for gas for high school.....	7 00	
Willard Small, for dictionary.....	3 35	
S. D. Hicks, for chemical apparatus.....	2 00	
Thomas Hall, for chemicals.....	25	
S. R. Roby, for repairs on Woburn St. school house.....	3 81	
C. M. Barrows, for printing	20 75	
Old South Society, for use of church.....	15 00	
J. F. Runnels, for services at high school exhibition	3 00	
Wendal Bancroft, for labor.....	7 25	
A. W. Carr, for school supplies.....	2 80	
	<hr/>	
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$119 50	

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$119 50	
Wendal Bancroft, for labor and material for repairs.....	523 43	
Wilbur C. Parker, for labor.....	1 30	
M. Hanley, for repairs, chairs and settees	12 30	
Charles H. Whiting, for crayons.....	9 00	
Parker & Stone, for supplies.....	9 66	
John N. Nichols, for glazing.....	45	
A. S. Richardson, for repairs on pumps.	2 50	
D. Lathrop and Co., for books.....	13 50	
Charles H. Whiting, for book.....	1 44	
Moses E. Nichols, for painting, etc.....	4 79	
D. Appleton & Co., for book.....	84	
H. G. Wadlin, for school supplies.....	1 25	
Wm. M. Titus, for supplies and labor for schools.....	19 10	
Winkley, Thorp & Dresser, for ink.....	10 00	
George O. Batchelder, for rent of school lot.....	5 00	
Wm. H. Willis & Son, for books.....	1 59	
T. Littlefield, for labor and supplies.....	13 10	
Cummings Express, fees.....	7 75	
W. W. Davis, for labor and material....	1 45	
A. W. Danforth, for books.....	10 03	
Adams and Westlake, for ventilators....	12 00	
Edward F. Parker, for labor and supplies.	3 68	
D. Pratt & Son, for repairs on clock.....	1 50	
Smith & Anthony, for repairing furnace.	7 50	
Garfield & Co., for painting blackboard.	2 50	
	<hr/>	\$795 16
Receipts: —		
Appropriation.....	\$700 00	
For tuition of non-residents.....	19 00	
For books.....	3 12	
Drawn from school fund.....	73 04	
	<hr/>	795 16

EXPENSES OF REMOVING AND REMODELING WALNUT STREET SCHOOL HOUSE.

Expended : —

Paid Patrick Burns, for labor.....	6 65	
Peter Froton, for labor.....	8 25	
D. Doucette, for labor.....	197 00	
Henry McElwin, for blackboards.....	18 08	
Moses E. Nichols, for painting.....	32 86	
Albert Bancroft, for labor and stock....	4 73	
Wm. E. Moulton, for moving building..	163 25	
Patrick Conley, for labor.....	9 00	
Wendal Bancroft, for labor and materials	147 96	
Lewis Norris, for stone work.....	164 72	
Clara Gowing, for damages for cutting trees.....	25 00	
Everett Parker, for cleaning windows...	1 50	
	<hr/>	\$779 00

Receipts : —

Appropriation	\$500 00	
From sale of old lot.....	200 00	
From T. J. Mayall, for extra work in remov- ing house.....	75 00	
From H. McElwin, discount on bill.....	4 00	
	<hr/>	779 00



